

PFLP claims rocket attack

DAMASCUS (AP) — A Palestinian faction said its fighters rocketed the northern Israeli settlement of Metulla early Wednesday, causing heavy damage and casualties. A statement issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), headed by George Habash, said the fighters "bombed the settlement" with rockets at midnight Tuesday (2300 GMT). The communique issued in Damascus said the salvo was fired by "one of our units operating behind enemy lines" in the western Bekaa Valley in southeast Lebanon. "The rockets scored direct hits which caused heavy material and human casualties among enemy lines," it added. It said all the guerrillas "were able to withdraw safely back to base." It gave no other details. Israel Radio reported that the rockets fell inside the so-called "security belt" Israel established in South Lebanon June 10 when it withdrew the bulk of its forces from Lebanon after three years of occupation.

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Security Council issues landmark call

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council, in a landmark decision, on Wednesday unanimously condemned all acts of hostage-taking and abduction and called for the safe release of all hostages. The resolution, adopted without any debate, was the result of a United States initiative, developed in consultation with the Soviet Union and other members of the 15-nation council. The resolution condemns unequivocally all acts of hostage-taking and abduction and calls for the immediate safe release of hostages everywhere. It affirms the obligation of all states in whose territory hostages are held to take all appropriate measures to secure their release and to prevent any future abductions. It also appeals to all states to consider signing existing international accords against hostage-taking, crimes against diplomats and offences against civil aviation.

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Baz stresses Syrian role

BAHRAIN (R) — Syria must become involved in moves for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, a senior Egyptian official said in an interview published Wednesday. Osama Baz, a senior adviser to President Hosni Mubarak, told Bahrain's Al-Khaleej newspaper that current contacts for a settlement were based on the Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "We are now working with two partners, Jordan and the PLO... but there will come a time when Syria has to be involved because it is party to the conflict and some of its territory is under (Israeli) occupation," Dr. Baz said.

Jordan to host APU conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is expected to host the fourth conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) scheduled to be held on Feb. 25, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported from Damascus. The two-day conference will discuss the current Arab situation, and steadfastness in the face of decisive challenges facing the Arab Nation in addition to a number of pressing issues in the Arab arena, Petra said.

PLO expects attack in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — A spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Wednesday he expected an attack against PLO targets in Sudan. "We have placed our forces in Sudan on maximum alert because we expect a hostile offensive," Abu Rajal, PLO representative in Khartoum, told the official Sudan News Agency. He did not say who the attackers would be. Sudan has been host to 500 PLO fighters since PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his followers withdrew from the Lebanese city of Tripoli in 1982.

UAE minister to visit Iran

TEHRAN (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah will visit Iran on Dec. 28, Tehran Radio reported Wednesday. The radio said the visit was at the invitation of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss "bilateral relations, consolidation and expansion of the grounds for the cooperation of the two countries and about issues relating to the security of the Gulf." Mr. Velayati visited the UAE earlier this month.

King Juan Carlos ends Oman visit

MUSCAT (AP) — King Juan Carlos of Spain on Wednesday visited Oman's air base on Masirah Island before concluding a three-day official visit to the Sultanate, officials reported. The Spanish monarch inspected Omani jet fighters and equipment based at Masirah which lies off the Sultanate's Arabian Sea coast, they said. The base is vital for Oman's defence of the strategic Strait of Hormuz which the Sultanate also straddles.

Lebanese militias revive peace talks

Envoys of 3 militias meet in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Rival Lebanese militias started joint talks here on Wednesday with Syrian leaders in a fresh attempt to break the stalemate over a plan to end Lebanon's civil war.

The talks followed earlier separate meetings between Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and representatives of the mainly rightist "Lebanese Forces" militia, the mostly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Shiite Amal militia. Mr. Khaddam, Syria's main peace broker in Lebanon, wants the three groups to end the country's decade-long civil war by the end of this year. Wednesday's talks, the latest in a long shuttle diplomacy interrupted by fighting in Beirut between PSP and Amal, renew hopes that an end to the civil war is close. The discussions are aimed at reviving a Syrian-backed peace accord, set aside when negotiations stalled a month ago. Sources close to the "Lebanese Forces" quoted by Reuters described the talks as "very positive," adding militia officials would continue their meetings "until a final peace accord is hatched in a matter of few days." As the talks got under way in

Christian-dominated sectarian political system. The Beirut newspaper Al-Jumhuria, which speaks for the Lebanese forces, said Wednesday Christian negotiators were proposing a 19-year transitional period during which Muslims would get an equal share of power. The original draft had set five years for the transition. Christians have dominated the government, parliament, the army and judiciary since Lebanon's independence from France in 1943.

Christians were then considered the majority. But Muslims now make up 55 per cent of the four million population, according to official estimates. The "Lebanese Forces" also proposed an amendment that hostilities would cease within one year of signing the accord, instead of the six-month period stipulated in the original draft, Al-Jumhuria said. More than 100,000 people have been killed in the civil war and a string of inter-militia feuds. President Amin Gemayel met with his Prime Minister Rashid Karami on Wednesday in a bid to reinvigorate the cabinet. The full nine-man cabinet, which includes the nation's top warlords, has not met since April.

Iraqi president's visit to Moscow hailed as boost to Arab-Soviet ties

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's surprise visit to Moscow, which ended Tuesday night, was described as a success on Wednesday by the Iraqi media. "The unprecedented political and mass media attention given to the visit on both Arab and international levels proved its results would further develop not only Iraqi-Soviet but also Arab-Soviet relations," the ruling Ba'ath Party newspaper Al-Thawra said. President Hussein had talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Edvard Shevardnadze and Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov on the Iran-Iraq war, Soviet arms supplies to Iraq, and other Middle East issues. He also met Soviet Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Andrei Gromyko. During his two-day stay, President Hussein was accompanied by First Deputy Prime Minister Tahah Yassin Ramadan and Minister of State for Military Affairs General Abdul Jabbar Shamsah. Despite its neutral stand in the five-year-old Gulf war, the Soviet Union has supplied weapons to Iraq, its partner to a friendship and cooperation treaty. President Hussein, who arrived in Baghdad shortly before midnight on Tuesday, appeared on television to express "deep satisfaction" over the results of his talks with President Gromyko and other leaders, including Mr. Gorbachev. Arab diplomatic sources quoted by the AP said that the Soviet leadership responded favourably to President Hussein's quest for undisclosed quantities of sophisticated weapons which, they said, would decisively tilt the military scales in Iraq's favour against its war foe. The same Arab diplomats said that President Hussein tried to get the Soviet leaders to talk their Syrian friends into discontinuing their

support for Iran against Iraq. Syria and Iraq have been at loggerheads over political and ideological issues. In a speech at a banquet in President Hussein's honour, President Gromyko reiterated Moscow's neutrality in the war, which he described as unnecessary and mindless. But alluding to Iran's call for the Iraqi government's ouster as a condition to a peace solution, Mr. Gromyko said such demands were "a foolish way" to try to settle political quarrels. Al-Thawra said Wednesday that Iraq "fully understands that all forces of liberation, progress and peace... support an urgent and peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict." President Hussein's visit took place amid reports that Iran is preparing a major offensive against Iraq through the southern Huwze marshes.

Ivory Coast restores ties with Israel

GENEVA (AP) — Israel and the African republic of Ivory Coast on Wednesday announced they are resuming diplomatic relations severed in the wake of the 1973 Middle East war.

The announcement was made after a meeting in Geneva between Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Peres told a press conference that he expected that ties would be reestablished soon with two other African countries but declined to name them.

A joint communique read out by David Kimche of the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that in the meeting with the Ivory Coast president "Mr. Peres expressed his support for the policy of dialogue and of peace of president Houphouet-Boigny and expressed his conviction that that policy is applicable also within the context of the Middle East."

Peres told the press conference that he was confident that the two governments will support the decision. Relations with Ivory Coast would increase to seven the number of African countries, in addition to white-ruled South Africa, with which the Jewish state has formal ties. These include Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Liberia, Zaire and Egypt.

U.S. trying to defuse Syria-Israeli tension

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States has consulted Israeli leaders in a renewed effort to defuse tension caused by Syrian deployment of anti-aircraft missiles on the border with Lebanon, informed sources said Wednesday. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering discussed the missiles at separate meetings with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the sources told Reuters.

"We are trying to defuse the tension. Messages are going back and forth," a U.S. embassy official said. Shamir said Wednesday Israel wanted to avoid escalating tensions with Syria but might be "forced to respond" if Syria took steps beyond its latest missile redeployment.

In an Israeli Radio interview, Shamir reiterated earlier army statements that Syria moved mobile SA-6 and SA-8 anti-aircraft missiles into Lebanon in response to the Nov. 19 downing of two Syrian warplanes which challenged Israeli planes on a mission over Lebanon. Missiles were removed from Lebanese territory, but Israel contends that other long-range SA-2 missiles remain on Syria's border and "threaten" Israeli air reconnaissance patrols over Eastern Lebanon.

"We are against escalation. The United States has appealed to us and to Syria... not to take steps

that might increase tension, and this is the state of affairs at the moment," Shamir said. "We hope that Syria will not take additional steps that will force us to react," he said in remarks distributed by the government press office.

Shamir said Syria made no secret "that it seeks a military confrontation" with Israel once it feels strong enough to challenge the Israelis unaided by other Arab countries. A senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that firing the missiles at the Israeli patrols would constitute an escalation of the crisis.

"If they shoot, I assume we will think of retaliation, even if they don't hit," said the official in a briefing for foreign correspondents. He refused to be named.

Former Lebanese President Suleiman Frangieh has brushed aside the Israeli charge that Syrian missiles threatened Israeli planes. "The Israeli enemy obtains all the destructive weapons he needs from America," the veteran politician told reporters. "Can anyone in the world object to our taking whatever measures we can to defend ourselves?"

The Jerusalem Post quoted U.S. officials in Washington as saying Israel would have to live with the consequences and tolerate, for the time being, the new missile deployment.



QUEEN OPENS NEW PROJECT: Her Majesty Queen Noor on Wednesday opens a new project in Salt to offer higher level education and practical training to excellent students (Story on page 3)

'Arafat to accept 242 and 338'

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mr. Claude Cheysson, member of the European Community (EC) Commission for North-South Relations who is due here on Friday for a three-day visit, will be carrying an "EC contribution" to accelerate the Middle East peace process, informed sources said Wednesday.

The newspaper Al-Quds, published in Arab East Jerusalem, said Mr. Arafat would privately tell His Majesty King Hussein that he accepts U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in exchange for an invitation to an international Middle East peace conference.

Al-Quds said the King would relay Mr. Arafat's acceptance to the United States provided the PLO received assurances it would not be publicised until preparations were made for a conference.

Mr. Arafat has been under pressure for months over the resolutions, which the United States insists the PLO must accept before Washington will speak to the organisation.

Mr. Arafat is due in Amman within two days, the paper said. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has accepted international auspices for direct talks with Jordan and a Palestinian delegation excluding the PLO.

In Bethlehem, the mayor, Elias Freij, made a Christmas wish Wednesday for Israel to open peace talks in 1986 with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Mr. Freij spoke to foreign journalists visiting Bethlehem to see the preparations underway for the Christmas celebration next week in the city where tradition says Jesus was born.

"I hope to see peace next year between Israel and the Palestinians. We are tired of the situation, and the Jews are tired of the situation," Mr. Freij said. "I hope the Israeli government will have the courage to talk to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."

Bonn wants pact with U.S. on SDI by March

BONN (R) — The West German government announced on Wednesday it plans to open negotiations with Washington on involvement in President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" research and aims for an agreement by March.

Spokesman Friedhelm Ost told a news conference the cabinet had voted to start talks in January on a general framework agreement on technological cooperation in which the main emphasis would be on participation in Mr. Reagan's project.

"If we cannot succeed in achieving this (a broad technological agreement) then the talks will be separated and we will negotiate independently on SDI (the strategic defence initiative)," he added.

Ost said the government's aim was to have an accord signed by Easter, which falls next year at the end of March.

Cheysson expected to seek to revive peace process

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mr. Claude Cheysson, member of the European Community (EC) Commission for North-South Relations who is due here on Friday for a three-day visit, will be carrying an "EC contribution" to accelerate the Middle East peace process, informed sources said Wednesday.

The sources said that Mr. Cheysson's talks in Amman will focus on means to revitalise the Mideast peace process activated by the Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war and economic cooperation between Jordan and the EC, the sources said. The sources, who declined to be identified, did not elaborate.

During his stay in Amman, Mr. Cheysson, a former French foreign minister, will be received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, announced Wednesday. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and cabinet ministers will also hold talks with Mr. Cheysson, who will hold a press conference prior to his departure.

The EC has endorsed the Feb. 11 accord. The King's visit to Luxembourg and France in November resulted in securing the community's broad support for his efforts to bring about a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Cheysson will also meet with speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al-Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Akel Al-Fayez and will discuss economic and energy issues with Minister of Industry and Trade Rajat Muasher, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al-Khatib and Minister of Planning Abdullah Nour. He will also hold discussions with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kan'an.

According to Petra, Mr. Cheysson will pay visits to the northern Jordan Valley region and the Arab Potash Company (APC) near the Dead Sea, as well as Aqaba.

Wu arrives in Egypt from Syria

CAIRO (AP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian arrived on Wednesday for a four-day official visit, part of a tour of the Middle East and Asia.

Mr. Wu is the highest ranking Chinese official to visit Egypt since Premier Zhao Ziyang came here in December 1982.

In Cairo, Mr. Wu's programme includes talks with President Hosni Mubarak and Premier Ali Lutfi as well as Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, who greeted him at Cairo international airport.

"Egypt and China maintain strong relations, which are 30 years old and are increasing in strength as the days go by," Mr. Wu said at the airport. He said a major topic of discussion with Egyptian leaders will be the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shultz leaves Belgrade after outburst at news conference

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz left Belgrade on Wednesday, completing a six-nation European tour in which he urged better international cooperation against "terrorism."

Mr. Shultz labelled his eight days of low-key public appearances a "learning experience," especially about Eastern European countries such as Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia. He also visited Britain, West Germany and Belgium.

Before boarding his plane, Mr. Shultz said, "it has been a very useful exchange of views," and added, "we touched on just about any subject."

Seeing the American flag flutter atop a light tower over the airport, the secretary of state said he appreciated the gesture as "a very positive symbol of relations between our two countries."

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Rado Dizardovic braved cold and windy weather to see Mr. Shultz's plane take off. Those present applauded.

On Tuesday, Mr. Shultz strongly admonished countries to stop giving "terrorists a place to hide."

The secretary of state angrily slammed his hand on the table at a news conference at Mr. Dizardovic's suggestion that the causes of "terrorism" be considered in deciding how to treat "terrorists."

The incident occurred at a news conference in which Mr. Shultz and Mr. Dizardovic were asked about the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in October. An American was killed during the hijacking.

Mr. Shultz's outburst jolted the news conference at the end of talks in which he voiced disappointment at Belgrade's decision to allow alleged hijack mastermind Mohammad Abbas to go.

INSIDE

- * U.S. asks Malta to extradite hijacker, page 2
- * Upper House refers budget, 7 draft law to committee, page 3
- * Americans on terrorism: Keep civilians out of it, page 4
- * Prince Hassan: Islam has always advocated peace, page 5
- * Weakened Swedes hope to retain Davis Cup, page 6
- * Dollar to take hard fall, economists predict, page 7
- * Gandhi's party concedes defeat in Assam, page 8

OPENING SOON
JORDAN SUPERMARKET
ABDOUN BRANCH

U.S. asks Malta to extradite hijacker of Egyptian plane

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has made a request to Malta for the extradition of a man believed to be the only surviving hijacker of the Egyptian plane that was stormed by Egyptian commandos there last month.

But the State Department said Tuesday night that the U.S. has asked Malta to hold the request in abeyance "pending the hijacker's prosecution in Malta and any future extradition and prosecution in Egypt that may follow."

The surviving hijacker, Omar

Ali Mohammad Rezaq, said by Maltese government officials to be a Palestinian, appeared before magistrates in Malta last Friday and pleaded not guilty to 16 charges ranging from murder to possession of arms.

The U.S. request for provisional arrest, which was described as routine, seeks Rezaq's extradition to the United States only if he were

freed by the Maltese or Egyptian judicial process, department spokesman Joe Reap said.

"We are deferring to the punishment that he will get in Malta or in Egypt," he said.

Another spokesman said the Maltese had "expressed a determination to try (the alleged hijacker) for crimes committed on Maltese territory."

Kahane to appeal revocation of U.S. citizenship

TEL AVIV (AP) — Rabbi Meir Kahane, an American immigrant who won a seat in the Israeli parliament last year, said Tuesday he is appealing the decision to revoke his U.S. citizenship because the motives behind it were political.

Kahane told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that he has told U.S. State Department and local consular officials he would accept his loss of citizenship if guaranteed free entry to the United States, but he has begun appeal proceedings because the officials gave him no assurance.

The State Department issued a "certificate of nationality" in October. Kahane said he received the document at the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem Tuesday.

Kahane claimed that the motive behind the State Department action "was obviously about politics" because, he said, other Israelis of American origin had served in the Knesset (parliament) without immediate steps being taken to revoke their U.S. citizenship.

Karami assails U.S. decision

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Rashid Karami assailed the United States on Wednesday for plotting with Israel in a conspiracy to force Lebanon to knuckle under "by slashing \$18 million in funding to a U.N. force in South Lebanon the Israeli." Karami said he had drawn, but the 63-year-old prime minister vowed: "We shall not capitulate." Mr. Karami's aide came after the U.S. Congress voted to halve Washington's \$36 million 1986 contribution to the harassed United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Waite visits Geneva

GENEVA (Agencies) — Anglican Church negotiator Terry Waite, who is trying to secure the release of four American hostages held in Lebanon, arrived in Geneva Wednesday but refused to comment on the purpose of his visit.

In response to inquiries, Mr. Waite, 46, told Reuters from his Geneva hotel room: "I don't want to speak. I'm not here."

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Waite informally met international Red Cross officials during a brief stopover in Geneva early this month and that he intended to follow up the talks.

A Red Cross spokeswoman Wednesday said only that there were no formal plans to meet him.

Hotel staff said the envoy, lay representative of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, arrived from London via Zurich.

He was to leave for Lebanon next Friday.

Mr. Waite has been negotiating with the kidnappers in Beirut but has not identified them or any group they may belong to.

He has said he will next hold talks with officials from Kuwait, which has jailed 17 terrorists on bombing charges. Kuwaiti officials have said their government would oppose any deal to free the 17 in return for the Americans' release.

Meanwhile Razah Raad, a Lebanese-born French chess specialist returned to Beirut Tuesday continue efforts to free four French hostages and said he hopes they will be home by Christmas.

Dr. Raad was accompanied by Pierre Blouin, a French Foreign Ministry official and former ambassador to Kuwait. Mr. Blouin dropped out of sight at the airport as Dr. Raad talked to reporters.

'UNIFIL facing difficult situation'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said the situation confronting the U.N. peace-keeping force in southern Lebanon was not acceptable, but added that the alternatives were not promising whether it remained or was withdrawn.

In a report to the Security Council, he said he was not at present making any recommendations about future action.

But he hoped council members would consider carefully what might be done to further the implementation of its resolutions on the force, known by the acronym UNIFIL, and to bring about peace and normality in southern Lebanon.

The mandate of UNIFIL, established in 1978, was last renewed by the council on Oct. 17 for a further six months.

The force is prevented from operating freely in a strip along the Lebanon-Israel border by the presence in a so-called "security zone" of the Israeli-supported South Lebanon Army (SLA), which has come under attack from Lebanese Shi'ite militia and other groups.

That part of the UNIFIL area from which Israeli forces were evacuated last spring had remained quiet, Mr. Perez de Cuellar wrote. But the other part, where Israel maintained its "security zone," had been very tense.

There was no question that, despite the difficulties encountered, UNIFIL was an important stabilizing factor in southern Lebanon, he added.

"But the present situation is not acceptable and it could well deteriorate if the level of resistance to the 'security zone' and the reaction to such resistance increases in the coming months."

He noted the leader of the Shi'ite Amal organization had recently said he intended stepping up activities against the South Lebanon Army and Israel if there was no change in the present situation by the end of the year.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he was anxious, at the least, to minimize the risks of the present status quo and to preserve the "credibility of UNIFIL, a difficult and costly, the most effective means of doing this would be a change in the Israeli position. Failing that, the alternatives are not promising."

Riyadh optimistic over summit

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz said there were "positive indications" for holding an Arab summit "in a friendly atmosphere, and away from differences."

In an interview published by the Saudi newspaper, Al-Jazira, Prince Sultan said his country follows a steady policy aimed at reconciling Arab and Islamic countries.

He said that the efforts exerted by the Arab reconciliation committee, headed by Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, the Regent, "has succeeded in its mission to achieve a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement."

He said that Saudi Arabia looks forward to more positive results in the process of inter-Arab cooperation, and is aware of "the sensitivity" of the situation between Baghdad and Damascus.

Prince Sultan reiterated his country's position vis-a-vis the Palestinian question, pointing out that Riyadh "is with any direction that aims to achieve just and durable peace and that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

He told the newspaper that the Kingdom had no current plans to resume diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. He explained that the future of Saudi-Soviet relations depended on Moscow's position on Islamic issues in Afghanistan and other areas.

"We call on Soviet leaders to reconsider their position and to clarify their response to us regarding these issues." Diplomatic relations between Riyadh and Moscow have been frozen since 1939.

The Saudi defence minister said the Kingdom will continue its policy of diversification in arms sources and that the main aim of establishing the "Dera' Al-Jazira" forces was for these forces to be the nucleus to protect Gulf Cooperation Council states from any foreign intervention.

Prince Sultan arrived Baghdad Monday on a four-day official visit for talks on military and economic cooperation. He will later visit Pakistan.

Iran plans to build bomb shelters

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran is beginning a programme for construction of bomb shelters, including large ones to be used as libraries and shopping centres in peacetime, the country's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Wednesday.

IRNA, monitored here, said the underground shelters are being built to protect against air raids and attacks by nuclear and chemical weapons. It said each would accommodate 300 people.

The agency said work was begun Monday on a general shelter in south Tehran and a shelter was opened recently in Karaj, 50 kilometres west of Tehran.

Ali Akbar Zakai-Pour, head of the Karaj War Shelters Department, said his department plans to build shelters in schools and other public buildings that can be used in peacetime as libraries and shopping centres, IRNA reported.

U.S. military using bases in Oman

MUSCAT, Oman — U.S. surveillance planes keep watch on the entrance to the volatile Gulf, flying in and out of bases here under an agreement that links the United States militarily to the secluded Arab country.

Details of the agreement, signed June 4, 1980, are secret, but it apparently gives the United States access to Omani bases at Thumrait, Masirah Island, Sieb and Khasab. In return the United States has spent, according to congressional testimony in Washington, at least \$256 million to upgrade the facilities.

The Pentagon says the agreement "provides for limited peacetime and contingency use of designated Omani military facilities" when both governments deem it in their interests.

Public portions of the agreement stipulate the United States can use the bases only with the consent of Omani leader Sultan Qaboos bin Said. But it is unclear to what extent the pact commits the United States to defend Oman against internal subversion or foreign aggression.

Neighbouring South Yemen is a pro-Soviet Arab nation. "It is the opposite of the Gulf," the agreement gives the United States a military presence in this strategic area and a capability of

countering any Soviet military adventure in the area.

One source with some knowledge of U.S. operations and speaking only on condition of anonymity said U.S. Navy P-3 reconnaissance planes are using Omani bases almost daily to keep watch on Iranian naval activity as well as Soviet ships in the Gulf of Oman at the mouth of the Gulf.

The United States is part of a multinational effort that keeps watch on the Strait of Hormuz, the 30 to 50 kilometre wide entrance of the Gulf through which 20 per cent of the non-Communist world's oil flows.

During the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war, the Iranians have frequently threatened to close the Strait if Iraq blocks their oil exports.

In addition, the U.S.-Omani agreement allows the United States to store military hardware in Oman for use by the U.S. Central Command, once known as the Rapid Deployment Force, in case of an emergency in the region.

Western sources say most of the supplies have already been deployed here, including fuel, ammunition and other unspecified equipment. "U.S. carrier planes fly supplies regularly to Masirah Island and for transport by helicopter to American ships in the Indian Ocean to the south."

Although the agreement rules out a permanent U.S. military presence, the sources say, a small number of civilian contractors working for the United States are in Oman to watch over the military stocks. Most of the civilians are said to be non-Americans.

Under terms of the agreement, U.S. Navy surveillance planes cannot be stationed here and they can use the bases only for refuelling. They must request permission from the Omanis each time they want to use the airfields, the sources added.

The agreement is part of an unusual pattern of military ties binding the west to this little country of 1.5 million people on the south eastern rim of the Arabian peninsula.

Sultan Qaboos is a graduate of Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy, and an estimated 1,000 British officers serve in Oman's 21,500-man armed forces, including some on contract to the Sultan and others on loan from regular British units.

Commanders of both the Omani Navy and Air Force are British.

Oman's political stability makes it a safe place for the U.S. operations. The country has had no major internal troubles since 1975.

Unlike other Gulf states like Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, Oman has no sizeable Shi'ite Muslim population with links to Iran.

ROYAL **Shakra**

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17:00	Scientific programme for children
18:30	Supergan
18:45	Contests programme
19:30	Week's event
19:45	Tomorrow's programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:30	Tomorrow's programmes and varieties
22:00	Arabic Film
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Film continued
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00	French Programme: Tin Tam art
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	Emergency Room
21:00	An Inspector Calls
21:30	Varities
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film: A Great American Tragedy — George Kennedy, Vera Miles
RADIO JORDAN	
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09:00	News Summary
10:00	Morning Show
11:00	Pop Session
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Session Cont.
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:15	Talking Points
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Instrumentals
16:50	Old Favourites
17:00	25 Years of Rock
FOR FRIDAY	
JORDAN TELEVISION	
21:30 Tomorrow's Programme	
21:40 Viewer's Choice (Arabic)	
22:00 News in Arabic	
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
17:30	French film: Invitation
18:00	News in French
18:15	French Varieties
18:30	News in Hebrew
19:00	News in Arabic
19:30	Concert Hour
20:00	Missing from Sun
21:00	News in English
22:00	Simon and Simon
RADIO JORDAN	
855 Hz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 Hz. SW	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITION	
A painting exhibition by Khalid Khach at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Dec. 30).	
FEATURE FILM	
"Mary Poppins" at 5:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.	
SONGS	
Carols and tales at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.	
SPECIAL MEETING	
The Goethe invites the graduates of German universities to a meeting in a Christmas atmosphere at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the institute on the occasion of the end of the year.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre: Tel. 6610267	
American Centre: 644371	
British Council: 641520	
French Cultural Centre: 637077	
Goethe Institute: 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre: 644203	
Spanish Cultural Centre: 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre: 639777	
Hays Arts Centre: 665195	
City Library: 667181	
Y.W.M.C.A. Library: 641793	
Library: 636111	
Library: 843555	
ML. IMS	
Also movies from Madiba and J. (4th to 18th centuries). The Royal Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill).	
PRAYER TIMES	
05:40	Fajr
06:31	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:32	Dhuhr
16:32	'Asr
18:01	Maghrib
18:01	Isha
FOR FRIDAY	
06:00	Morning Show
06:30	News Summary
07:00	Morning Show Cont.
07:30	News Summary
08:00	Listeners' Choice
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Listeners' Choice
09:30	News Summary
10:00	Pop Session
10:30	News Bulletin
11:00	Jordan Weekly
11:30	Music
12:00	Concert Hour
12:30	News Summary
13:00	Instrumentals
13:30	Old Favourites
14:00	Country Music
14:30	News Summary
15:00	Top Twenty
15:30	Date with a Star
16:00	Animal Vegetable Mineral
16:30	Talking Points
17:00	News Summary
BBC WORLD SERVICE	
639, 720, 1413 kHz	
06:00	News
06:30	Country Style
06:45	Financial News 06:55 Reflections
07:00	World News 07:05 24 Hours
07:15	News Summary 07:30 A Future for the Industrial Past 07:45 The World Today
08:00	News 08:05 24 Hours
08:15	World News 08:20 24 Hours
08:30	News Summary 08:35 The Best of Folk 08:45
08:50	Merchant Navy Programme 09:00
09:00	News 09:05 British Press Review
09:15	The Sounds of Strings 09:30 Music

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the International Airport (08) 533000, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
09:35	Kuwait (RJ)
09:40	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45	Agaba (RJ)
09:45	Chiba (RJ)
09:45	Calcutta (RJ)
09:45	Dhahran (RJ)
09:45	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:45	Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
09:45	Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:45	Isfahan, Ankara (RJ)
10:35	Muscat, Dubai, Bahrain, Larnaca (GF)
16:15	Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (JA)
17:15	Baghdad (RJ)
17:30	Cairo (RJ)
17:50	London, Belgrade (RJ)
17:55	Athens (RJ)
18:00	Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM)
20:00	Zurich, Larnaca (RJ)
23:20	Calcutta (RJ)
00:25	Baghdad (RJ)
00:35	London, Baghdad (BA)
DEPARTURES	
06:20	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:40	Damascus, Athens (OA)
07:30	Agaba (RJ)
08:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:00	Beirut (MEA)
11:00	Vietnam, New York (RJ)
11:30	Athens (RJ)
12:00	Paris, London (RJ)
12:15	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
13:00	Cairo (RJ)
15:00	Kuwait (RJ)
15:30	Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
15:45	Bahrain (GF)
17:30	Baghdad (JA)
18:30	Baghdad (RJ)
19:30	Kuwait (RJ)
20:00	Damascus (RJ)
20:10	Baghdad (RJ)
20:15	Jeddah (RJ)
20:45	Cairo (RJ)
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Wednesday rates	
Local selling rates in Jds	
Bahraini dinar	975 985
Irish pound	130.5 131.5
French franc	205 210
French franc	48 48.4
Irish pound	330 340
Japanese yen (for 100)	182.4 183.9
Kuwait dinar	127.5 128.2
Lebanese lira	50 22
Omani rial	1070 1080
Qatari riyal	101 103
Saudi riyal	101 103
Swedish crown	48 48.4
Swiss franc	175.5 176.9
Syrian lira	27 29
UAE dirham	100 102
U.S. dollar	532.1 536.2
W. German mark	147 148.2
QUEEN ALIA INT'L AIRPORT	
ARRIVALS	
09:35	Cairo (MS)
DEPARTURES	
06:30	Istanbul, Amsterdam (KLM)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES		NIGHT DUTY	
Amman government 891228		AMMAN:	
Amman civil defence 198, 199		Dr. Issa Haddad 897007	
Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131		Dr. Awwar Mada 771020	
Civil Defence Quarters 770733		First pharmacy 661912	
Ambulance 193, 775111		Nadrouh pharmacy 623672	
Amman downtown fire brigade 198		University pharmacy 644554	
First aid 63041		Azeah pharmacy 770566	
Blood bank 778303		Mazah pharmacy 770910	
Civil Defence rescue 661111		Nuzha pharmacy 672089	
Fire headquarters 62390-3		TAXIS:	
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777		Al Hamra taxi 641833	
Police headquarters 639141		Al Abi taxi 621127	
Traffic police 8963901		Bassam taxi 811857	
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881		Tasra taxi 623054	
Municipal water complaints 771125/8		Khaldoun taxi 664888	
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 5330060		Rania taxi 625095	

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32	IRBID:
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6	Dr. Issam Al Saleh 274722
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman 642441/2	ZARQA:
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362	Dr. Hikmah Sharabi 986232
Malhas, J. Amman 636140	
Palustine, Shmiciani 664171/4	GENERAL
Shmiciani Hospital 669131	Jordan Television 773111/19
University Hospital 845845/65	Radio Jordan 774111/19
Al-Mawakeh Hospital 642277	Ministry of Tourism 642111
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57	Hotel complaints 666412
Al-Abi, Abdali 664164/6	Police complaints 661176
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3	Telephone information 12
Al-Basail, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26	Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Amy, Marzi 891611/15	Overseas calls 11
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50	Repair service 11

MARKE T P R I C E S

(Fixed prices for imported produce)

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.		Garlic (with leaves) 320 / 280	
Apple 280 / 220		Garlic (without leaves) 480 / 400	
Beet 150 / 120		Onion (dry) 180 / 140	
Chestnut 700 / 600		Potatoes 200 / 150	
Coconut (each) 500 / 450		Sage (green) 350 / 300	

09:30	Kuwait (RJ)	07:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:35	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	08:15	Cairo (MS)
09:45	Jeddah (RJ)	11:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)	11:30	Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
09:45	Aqaba (RJ)	12:15	Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
10:00	Damascus (RJ)	12:45	Istanbul (RJ)
12:05	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)	12:50	Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
13:45	Kuwait (RJ)	13:00	Larnaca (RJ)
15:10	Jeddah (SV)	13:30	Doha, Muscat (GF)
16:45	Larnaca (RJ)	13:35	Cairo (RJ)
17:30	Aqaba (RJ)	15:00	Kuwait (RJ)
17:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)	16:40	Jeddah (RJ)
17:50	London, Paris (RJ)	18:30	Riyadh (RJ)
18:05	Athens, Damascus (OA)	19:30	Kuwait (RJ)
18:05	Frankfurt (RJ)	19:40	Damascus (RJ)
18:10	Istanbul (RJ)	19:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
18:20	Baghdad (RJ)	20:00	Doha, Karachi (RJ)
20:35	Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)	20:45	Cairo (RJ)
01:30	Baghdad (RJ)	21:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
01:40	Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)	21:30	Baghdad (RJ)
		22:05	Istanbul, Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

04:30	Istanbul, Baghdad (RJ)
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Upper House refers budget, 7 draft laws to committees

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a brief session Wednesday, the Upper House of Parliament referred the 1986 draft budget law and seven other laws to its financial and legal committees.

Two amended laws for Jordanian lawyers, which were first passed in 1979, were referred to the legal committee for discussion and consideration.

A draft law for a loan financing an urban development project was referred to the financial committee. The project is to be financed under an agreement between the Jordanian government and the World Bank.

A draft law on standardisation and metrology and another on the pharmaceutical profession were referred for consideration by the legal committee. A law regarding invention rights for the year 1985 and a draft law for the Salt Municipality court were also referred to the legal committee.

At the beginning of the session Senators stood in silence for one minute to mourn the death of deputy Mutlaq Al-Hadid.

Public Security Department marks Arab Police Day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD), along with Arab police departments, Wednesday celebrated Arab Police Day. Addressing a celebration held at the Palace of Culture, PSD Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al-Majali said that the ultimate goal of the public security services is safeguarding the public and is interested in the country and he added that there are continuing attempts to strengthen the relationship between the police and the public.

"In our present and future programmes, we are concentrating on the citizen and as we consider him the core of the security process and the corner stone for its success," Lt. Gen. Majali added. He also expressed hope that the good relationship between the public and the police will continue as he said that both citizens and the police are willing to establish balanced relations based on mutual confidence and respect.

Arab social security talks end

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first Arab conference of directors of social security corporations ended in Amman Wednesday with a call on Arab governments to maintain contacts with the International Social Security Association (ISSC), especially regarding the implementation of projects which would benefit Arab social security corporations.

The conference, in its final statement, called on Arab governments to be represented in all international and regional conferences and those organised by the ISSC and to enable Arab social security corporations to increase their investments in development projects.

The statement said that a detailed study on the activities of Arab social security corporations should be submitted to the next Arab conference to be held in Baghdad.

A spokesman for the conference said that the Baghdad meeting will discuss a report submitted by the activities of the Arab Labour Office in the field of social security and social security affairs in general. The spokesman said that the conference has set up a committee comprising Jordan, Libya, Iraq and Saudi Arabia as well as the Arab Labour Office to prepare a draft statute for establishing an Arab social security association.

At the end of the conference, which was attended by delegates from eight Arab states, the participants sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein voicing appreciation for the facilities provided by Jordan and they paid tribute to the King's endeavours to bring about economic and social development in Jordan.



Her Majesty Queen Noor visits a classroom of the parallel programme for gifted students, which she inaugurated in Salt on Wednesday (Petra photo)

Sudanese military delegation watches field demonstration

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Sudanese military delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan, Wednesday called at field medical units and watched a demonstration of evacuating casualties from a mock battlefield.

The delegation, comprising Lieutenant General Dr. Ahmad Abdul Aziz — the medical corps commander — and his deputy, later called at the Martyr's Monument and met with Army's Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb.

Team to investigate Chinese shale oil extraction methods

AMMAN (R) — A Jordanian technical team left for China Wednesday to investigate whether Chinese methods of shale oil extraction can be applied in Jordan.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the team's two-week tour was agreed upon during a visit here by Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, which ended last Monday. His Majesty King Hussein told parliament last month the government hoped to set up a plant capable of extracting 50,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil from shale.

Jordan's crude oil finds so far have not been commercially viable and it remains dependent on neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Iraq for oil imports worth some \$600 million a year.

Official estimates put shale oil deposits at Lejoun in southern Jordan at 1.3 billion tonnes and deposits have also been found elsewhere in the country.

Cyprus airport authorities arrest Jordanian passport holder

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — An Arab man, who was arrested trying to board a jet at Larnaca airport with guns and grenades concealed in wine bottles, was remanded by a Cyprus court on Wednesday to eight days in custody while an investigation of the case continues.

Police inspector Yiannakis Christodoulou identified the man as Sami Anis Maroun Nasser, a Palestinian holding a Jordanian passport.

Nasser was arrested by security officers at Larnaca airport in south Cyprus on Tuesday night when his hand luggage was found to contain two Italian-made Beretta pistols, three hand grenades, one pistol equipped with a silencer, two magazines and 91 bullets.

The weapons were found concealed in two "unusual looking" wicker-covered wine jugs, Christodoulou told the court. He said that the bottles had been cut off the jugs, the weapons placed inside and then the jugs had been resealed and filled with ink and liquor to try and conceal their contents.

Nasser was arrested as he prepared to board a Swissair flight to Amman. Police said his final destination had been the United Arab Emirates.

The Swissair flight had arrived in Larnaca from Zurich. It carried 50 passengers, 30 of whom disembarked and the rest were in transit to Jordan. The flight was delayed by 19 minutes while the arrest was made.

Christodoulou told the court that two other foreigners may have provided Nasser with the weapons in Cyprus. On Tuesday, police said they were searching the airport for three other persons who were believed to have been accompanying Nasser but who did not check in for the flight. Police sources said the three were believed to have lived in the southern city of Limassol and identified one of them as Abdul Latif. Police later arrested two other suspects in connection with the case.

The guns and grenades had been hidden inside Chianti wine bottles which had been sawn off at the base and resealed. A police source told Reuters the concealed arms escaped detection by X-ray equipment at the airport security checkpoint and that they were found by an alert officer searching hand luggage.

Queen opens 'parallel education programme for gifted students' in Salt

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Wednesday opened a new ambitious project entitled "the parallel education programme for gifted students" organised by the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) in cooperation with the University of Jordan.

The project, located in Salt, offers higher level education to excellent students in computer sciences, physics and chemistry, music and arts and has the necessary equipment to provide practical training.

The project received the Queen's attention since its start and Her Majesty offered moral and material support to it through the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education.

The endowment, which is now part of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, now seeks to spread of the programme in other parts of the Kingdom as a parallel project to the Jubilee School which was announced during celebrations marking the 50th birthday of His Majesty King Hussein.

Following the inauguration ceremony on Wednesday, the Queen visited the various sections of the project and inspected the methods applied in supplementing the education of some 200 students benefiting from the programme, which aims at developing their abilities and talents in the secondary stage of their education.

At the outset of Wednesday's opening ceremony, the chairman of the board of directors of the SDC, Mr. Jafer Sba'ni, thanked the Queen for her continuous support of the project, the first of its kind in Jordan.

The gathering at the ceremony presented the Queen with a commemorative plaque on the occasion. It was presented by Balqa Governor Muhsen Al Khreisha on behalf of the people of the governorate.

The opening ceremony was attended by senior officials from Balqa, SDC members and members of the board of directors of the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education.

He said proper atmosphere is created for the students to help them acquire creative skills, and their work is constantly being guided and supervised by at least 20 qualified instructors and teachers specially selected for the project.

Normally, the school accepts male and female students who excel in their third preparatory schools and passed the Ministry of Education examinations with distinction, Mr. Abu Taleh said.

The first batch of 90 students were accepted in the 1984-1985 scholastic year but this figure will rise to 270 by the beginning of the 1986-87 scholastic year, Mr. Abu Taleh said.

He said by then the total cost of training these students will reach J.J. 110,000 up from J.J. 50,000 at the beginning of the 1984-85 scholastic year.

The students have excellent facilities to help them acquire more training and get more education, and the SDC has provided a library, computers and typewriting machines, musical instruments, laboratory, television and video sets and lecture halls.

Mr. Abu Taleh said students conduct extra curricular activities mainly in the summer, like setting up a scouts camp, going on trips to archaeological sites and visiting educational and cultural centres. In January, the students plan to make a trip to Egypt, Mr. Abu Taleh added.

Housing Bank contributes JD 17m to UDD projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A statistical bulletin issued by the Housing Bank has revealed that the bank contributed more than JD 17 million towards the construction of homes for families with limited income within two housing projects being carried out by the Urban Development Department (UDD).

In one of the two projects, to which the bank contributed JD 7.2 million, the UDD is improving the condition of 4,800 housing units in the poor districts of Jofa, Wadi Al Haddadeh, Nuzhi and East Wajut in the Amman region. These areas, the bulletin said, are being supplied with roads, water and electricity networks and health centres. The first project also entails building 5,000 new housing units, complete with all public utilities at Ruseifa, Oweimeh and Marka in the outer districts of the capital, the bulletin said.

New society plans to develop rural districts in Mafrag

AMMAN (J.T.) — A newly-established society which aims at encouraging people to move back from urban to rural regions in Jordan will soon embark on a wide-scale programme for developing rural districts in the Mafrag region.

Last week Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaleel Al Haj Hassan gave his consent to the establishment of the society which will be based in Zarqa and which groups representatives of Banat Hassan tribes in the Zarqa and Mafrag regions.

One of the founders of the society is Sheikh Jalal Al Qallab, who is also a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said in a statement to the local press that the society will give due care to the development of land in the Mafrag region which has been neglected due to the continuous migration of local inhabitants to major cities in Jordan.

Neglected land Not only was the land neglected, dealing a heavy blow to the economy, but the migration of people from rural to urban regions has also created complicated social problems for Jordan, Sheikh Qallab said in the interview.

According to Sheikh Qallab, the society will first open contacts with the inhabitants who abandoned their lands and moved away and will urge them to return. The society also plans to launch a programme of lectures and seminars to expound its cause, and will carry out studies for improving the economic and social conditions of people in the rural regions in cooperation with the authorities, he continued.

Iraqi transport official chairs IJLTC meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (IJLTC) held a meeting here Wednesday under the chairmanship of Mr. Ghassan Radwan, under secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Transport in his capacity as chairman of the IJLTC board of directors.

The meeting studied a number of subjects on the board's agenda which included the company's financial situation and plans for the coming year as well as a budget for 1986.

National work team studies computerisation

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A ministerial committee entrusted with spreading computerisation in Jordan has formed a national work team which comprises public and private sector representatives to act as a consultative body for the committee and to advise them on certain issues regarding the future plans for computerisation in Jordan.

The committee, which was established in September by a cabinet decision, will supervise the spread of computers among the public sector and in education and will raise public awareness on the importance of computers for Jordan's modernisation. The cabinet later issued a decision exempting all computers from customs to promote the use of computers.

The national work team has started its work on six major activities to organise a national programme for spreading computer awareness, to establish a code of practice for the government to regulate the introduction and purchase of computers by the public sector and to assess the importance of establishing a national data bank in Jordan, a team representative told the Jordan Times.

The representative added that the team has other activities including forming a society to regulate the computer profession in Jordan, studying the issue of computer telecommunications in the country and abroad as well as assessing the importance of computers in educational programmes.

The team, which meets once a week, comprises four representatives from the private sector and seven from the public sector and they will carry out consultations with other computer consultants in Jordan.

The national team will also study any suggestions which are presented to it by the ministerial committee which includes Minister of Planning Abdullah Al Nsour, Minister of Finance Hanan Odeh, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, and on which the team bases its recommendations after thorough studies.

According to the source, the most important activities of the team remain setting a code of practice for the public purchase of computers and the study of a national data bank which is part of Jordan's 1986-1990 development plan. Until now, there has been no agency regulating the purchase of computers for public use and the code of practice aims to ensure the compatibility of systems and the maximum use and efficiency of computers among public institutions.

The standards to be recommended for the purchase of public computer systems will not be rigid but are expected to develop according to the needs of the departments, the source said.

Data bank
The national data bank will include all essential information about Jordan needed by decision makers when they adopt and implement any national programmes. The national data bank will also connect with several other data banks in Jordan for full integration and exchange of data. Each ministry will still have its own system but the vital information supplied by each ministry will be summarised by the national data bank and presented in a way which can be used by decision makers, the representative said.

The estimated cost of the national data bank has not been announced but the source said there will be "no great expenses" since the national data bank will gather all the information which is supplied by the ministries and public departments. He also explained that any national data bank can never be thoroughly complete

since the data gathered by computers is an ongoing process which needs to be constantly updated.

Computer telecommunications
The committee will also study the issue of computer telecommunications in linking Jordan with an internal network and an international one. Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Hussein has announced that the ministry is currently planning a system for computer telecommunications in Jordan to be used by both the private and the public sectors.

Applications in education
Another task to be undertaken by the team is to study the effect of computers in education and the types of programmes to be used in schools. The study will be conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Education during 1985/86 academic year and the ministry has already allocated 20 computers in some schools and intends to raise the number to 100 sets.

The team will also prepare recommendations for a national programme to spread computer awareness in the country and it will

organise intensive campaigns such as interviews, newspaper reports and radio programmes outlining the importance of computers in technology and modernisation as well as the role they play in transmitting, analysing and gathering information.

The team has no executive powers but is a consultative body for the ministerial committee. The national team includes: Dr. Abdullah Al Rifai, owner of a software house; Ms. Mouna Al Nabulsi, owner of a computer consultancy agency; Mr. Bassam Ma'alah, representing a computer company, and Mr. Ghassan Abdullah from the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

The seven-members representing the public sector committee are: Dr. Youssef Nsour from the Royal Scientific Society, Dr. Marwan Muasher from the Ministry of Planning, Mr. Fakher Anchari from the Jordan Electricity Authority, Mr. Awad Al Shubul from the Income Tax Department, Mr. Mohammad Hashem from the Ministry of Finance and Mr. Samir Kassar and Mr. Mohammad Al Dabbas, both from the Telecommunications Corporation.

How to get to QUEEN ALIA HOSPITAL

(1) Public Transport bus: from Basman Street (downtown Amman) — via Ein-Ghazal Road — to Tabarbour

(2) Private shuttle bus service: between Ein-Ghazal Road & Queen Alia Hospital (and vice versa) for hospital visitors only.

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Ein-Ghazal Road
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International band
Arabic band
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By Franz Schumann

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Americans on terrorism: Keep civilians out of it

SAN FRANCISCO — Terrorism is a lot on the mind of American public opinion. The reason is clear: Increasingly Americans are becoming key targets of terrorists. When the Egyptian plane hijacked to Malta, an American woman was the first to be killed. In West Germany, around the same time, a U.S. military shopping centre was the target of attack. And earlier this year there have been similar incidents.

Millions of Americans travel throughout the world every year. Tourism is big business. Business travel is even bigger business. There would be no world economy without large-scale international air travel. American soldiers and diplomats fly constantly all over the world. It is impossible for the U.S. government to protect them against terrorist attacks.

The Israelis have long had a policy of not negotiating with terrorists. If terrorists take hostages, they assume the hostages are going to die anyway, and make preparations for a mili-

tary strike against the hostage-takers. The Israelis call the PLO "terrorists." That is a way of indicating they will never negotiate with the PLO. President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz express a similar policy toward terrorist seizure of hostages. Yet in practice, the U.S. has taken a different approach. When a TWA plane was hijacked last June, Washington secretly made contact with various parties. It waited and waited until finally the hostages were released. The Carter government waited for fourteen months until the American hostages in the Tehran Embassy were released.

If the U.S. acted the way the Israelis do, then that would risk many more hostage deaths. That could result in a drop in air travel with serious economic consequences. At the same time, the U.S. public demands that the lives of international travellers be safeguarded. If not, tourism could drop. The revenues of many countries depend on tourism. That too could produce severe

economic misery in the countries affected.

It is not that easy for a government simply to shoot it out with hijackers. Egypt's government now is experiencing considerable embarrassment over the high death toll in the Malta hijacking episode. It has

gone to great pains to emphasise that the hijackers were already killing passengers. In Colombia, over one hundred hostages were killed when government troops stormed the Ministry of Justice. Anger is mounting in Colombia against this action.

The world knows little about terrorists. But two things about them can easily be assumed: They are, first, obsessed with power and politics, and, second, they are willing to die as they are to take the lives of their hostages. And thirdly it can also be assumed that terrorists believe that a terrorist act could just possibly change the course of history. In 1914, one assassin did that. A young Bosnian student assassinated the Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand, and so sparked World War I and the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

The dilemma that governments face is that while the hijackers want to deal with them, the governments do not want to deal with the hijackers. They fear opening the door to oppositional and subversive elements.

Yet it is not so easy any longer simply to assume that hostages are just obstacles in the way of getting at the terrorists. It is also becoming more and more difficult to assume that

civilians are also just obstacles in the way of military combat. Too many civilians killed in warfare can wreck an economy. And it can arouse moral anger. The Israelis discovered that in Lebanon. Perhaps a similar anger has risen in Iran where so many young men have died in the war.

In the U.S. there is growing sentiment against any kind of nuclear war. Nuclear bombs in effect kill millions of civilians who can be seen as hostages to war. Such a war would destroy economies as well as lives. In the U.S. there also is growing sentiment against anti-terrorist tactics that could result in large-scale loss of hostage life. People want the terrorists dead but the hostages alive. The attitudes may be confused but they imply approval for a complex rather than a simple response to terrorism.

Terrorism is emerging as a new form of warfare. Public opinion in the U.S. appears to favour rules of warfare that would keep civilians out of range of the cross-fire.



Closer ties with expatriates

THE Foreign Ministry has just sent out invitations to a number of departments and organisations connected with the affairs of Jordanian expatriates to discuss the implementation of resolutions and recommendations by the first Jordanian Expatriates Conference which was held in Amman last July. In announcing the meeting, which is to take place in the coming few days, the ministry said that Jordanian embassies abroad have been sent additional staff to help handle expatriates papers and passports and to help keep channels of communications open with these expatriates.

When the first expatriates conference was held it was hailed by many as a great step towards bolstering expatriates' ties with their country, and the participants who came from many nations around the globe aired their views on all matters which they felt were of real importance to them and to Jordan. Their views were given an enthusiastic welcome here, and when they left, they were under the impression that a concrete response would soon emerge for their requests.

Jordan appreciates the work being done by its citizens abroad, strengthening their country's ties with other nations and sending back savings to be invested in national development projects. A working paper read out at a Syrian expatriates conference, held in Damascus on Dec. 7, referred to the expatriates importance to their country. The paper revealed that around 325,000 Jordanians are now employed abroad, 85 per cent of whom are in the Gulf states and that in 1984 alone they remitted JD 475 million to Jordan, helping to adjust the country's balance of trade and replenishing the nation's foreign currency reserves. The paper made it clear that Jordan needs to maintain strong ties with its workers abroad and, as a first measure, it said embassies should take steps to help this to come about.

It is true that the government has promised to include the expatriates in the country's social security scheme and pledged to facilitate expatriates' investments in this country's development projects.

But it seems that no more than this has been done and that the Foreign Ministry's department entrusted with looking after these affairs has done very little so far to meet the aspirations of Jordanian expatriates. Indeed, it took the Foreign Ministry six whole months to come up with the idea of convening a meeting of concerned departments to look into ways of implementing the conference's resolutions.

We believe that more serious efforts should be made to ensure that the second conference will be more successful than the first, but above all we have to start thinking of new and creative ideas that would make the story of our expatriates and us a success.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S.-Israeli aggression

THE Israeli enemy has raised a storm over Syria's deployment of anti-aircraft missiles in its own territory and is being supported in this by the United States which always is in the side of what is dangerous and what hostile to the Arab nation. The Syrian armed forces have all the right to deploy all that is needed for the defence of the Syrian territory and the Arab homeland and the Israelis and the Americans have no right to object to this right. What we understand from the U.S.-Israeli alliance's objection to this deployment is that they both want to escalate aggression against Syria and to impose hegemony on the whole of the Arab nation. Israel does not want the missiles because they impede its aggressive plans against the Arabs. The United States give backing to the Israelis in their position and finds justification for the enemy's threats to the Syrians. How can we explain Washington's justification for Israel's continued aggression on the Arab nation, its invasion of Lebanon and its raid on the Iraqi nuclear plant? How can we explain Washington's continued support for Israel in perpetuating its occupation of Arab land in Palestine and the Syrian Heights? The United States is adopting hostile attitudes against the Arabs because the U.S. feels that the Arab nation can do nothing in return and can never build up its force to defend itself and regain its rights.

Al Dustour: Preparing for war

IT is only natural for Syria to deploy missiles in its own territory for defensive purposes and no one has the right to tell the Syrians how to defend themselves against Israeli aggression. Israel has been protesting against this deployment because it has hostile intentions towards Lebanon and Syria and because the Syrian missiles are there to prevent it from achieving its ends. But we are more surprised to see the Americans adopting an extremist attitude over this issue. The United States secretary of state said that Israel has the right to maintain reconnaissance flights over Lebanon in a move to fuel the situation and make Israel escalate its aggression and threats against Syria. Instead of preventing Israel from committing a rash act against Syria, the U.S. is trying to push Israel towards the verge of war with Syria by announcing that Israel has the right in what it is doing in Lebanon. Israel's threats and the unlimited and blind support it continues to get from the United States constitute an open preparation for war and a new Zionist aggression on the Arab nation. Our long experience with the machinations and evil intentions of our Israeli enemy makes us always alert and watchful. This alertness should be maintained.

Sawt Al Shaab: Friends and foes

IT is rather difficult to try to interpret U.S. policies with regard to the Middle East, which are now taking a trend towards extremism. We are not surprised that the United States and Israel were against the idea of an international conference, but we cannot understand Washington's insistence on its position until now while the Israelis have been lately showing some concessions over the issue. Similarly, as Israel is toying down its aggressive stance towards Syria over the deployment of Syrian missiles, the United States continues to adopt a different stand that tends to provoke the Israelis and to escalate the situation. In another instance, we find the United States telling the world that the Israelis have been cooperating with American estigators in the espionage affair, while the Israelis were saying that such cooperation never took place. The United States, through these attitudes, is not only defending the Zionist stands but is showing more extremism than Israel. It seems that the United States policies at present are not any better like those adopted in the past, and therefore there can be no justification for the Arabs to rely on them any more.

Ershad chases the votes

By John Elliott

DHAKA — "You students have education. It's your job and duty to tell the people in your village to boil pond water before they drink it. Do you expect the government to boil the water for you? This isn't America, you know; this is a poor country and you can't depend on government for everything."

The speaker was President Ershad, military ruler of Bangladesh, who interrupted a helicopter tour of rural administration centres in the Ganges delta to investigate a suspected cholera outbreak in the village of Nilchit.

The tour was part of Lieutenant General Ershad's bid to establish himself politically as a popular civilian president while at the same time checking on the efficiency of new local government centres.

The Bangladesh President has acted as host to the first summit of South Asian leaders, including Mr. Rajiv Gandhi of India and Gen. Zia Ul Haq of Pakistan. He is anxious to demonstrate that he is running a moderate style of military rule and is not an oppressive dictator.

"I intend to hold elections in 1986 and this time I am quite sure that they will take place on the declared date," he said in an interview in his Dhaka home.

He said he would not cancel the elections as he did earlier this year, just because opposition parties threatened to boycott them. Although he would not confirm dates until after he holds talks towards the end of the year with political parties, the elections are likely to take place in next March or April or in November.

"The opposition parties are afraid to go to elections," he said, airing a view widely held in Dhaka. "They have played into my hands and made a mistake by boycotting the elections and giving me more time — and maybe now I have earned the confidence of the people of the country." He described his military dictatorship as "more democratic than those who have ruled here in the name of democracy."

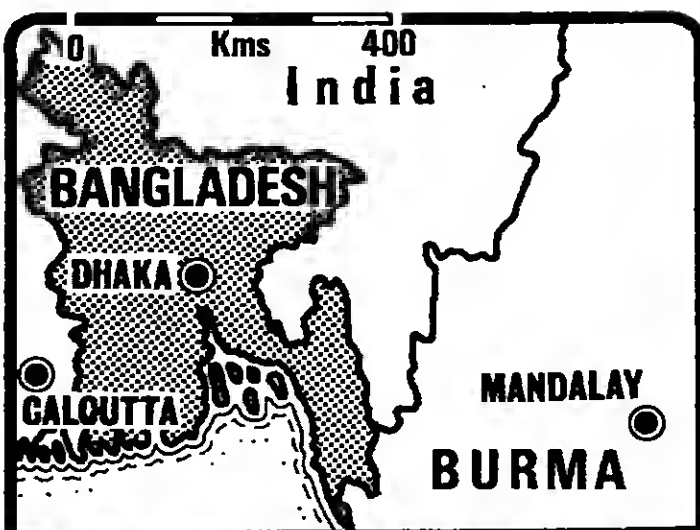
Gen. Ershad seized power in a bloodless army coup in March 1982 and has governed the country's 100 million population, 80 per cent of whom are below the poverty line, with relatively few major civil or economic problems. Earlier this year, in a referendum widely regarded as rigged, he was elected President until full elections are held. Although he has not formally declared himself a full Presidential candidate, he said: "If the people want me to be President, why not?"

His aim now is to establish sufficient support for himself and the parties which back him within a new Jatiya (national) Front so that he and they can be elected legitimately to full Presidential and parliamentary terms.

This would mean a defeat for the established opposition parties, apart from the Jamaat-i-Islami party, which has been gaining appeal in this gently-Muslim country. The others are rapidly losing credibility.

Martial law would end after the elections but Gen. Ershad wants a continuing role for the army, which at present has five of its 25 serving major generals in the Cabinet and other senior officers administering the regions and judicial system.

Some generals feel however that the time has come to pull back into their barracks and are worried about the army being weakened by corruption, which is increasing among some officers, especially those involved in the judicial system. But other officers are less keen to give up power and none is thought willing to pull out until Gen. Ershad is strong enough politically to defeat the old oppo-



sition. Like Gen. Zia in Pakistan, Gen. Ershad does not want his country's old political parties to return to power. Both are having considerable success in exposing and exploiting their parties' poor leadership, lack of popular policies, and general ineffectiveness.

In both countries, general apathy and despair about the abilities of the parties, rather than enthusiasm for the military rulers, have kept the two generals in power. In neither country is there any indication outside urban areas of a widespread wish to upset relatively benign administrations.

"The poor know they will be kicked by whichever government is in power, so why should they help the political parties which have failed in the past, when the new rulers might actually be worse than the army," says a distinguished former Bangladesh public servant.

General Ershad is credited by many people however for having introduced a new tier of legal councils which give devolved executive responsibility to elected representatives and increase local involvement in development schemes.

About 460 of the councils, called upazilas and covering an average of 260,000 people, have been set up in rural areas during the past two years, staffed by civil servants from Dhaka but headed by local chairmen.

Gen. Ershad has visited 370 of them in the past two years, talking to councillors, officials and farmers about practical problems. He has been developing a popular political image, which does not come easily to this withdrawn and stern-looking 55-year-old soldier.

Recently, he wore civilian clothes — grey trousers and a light blue open-necked shirt and pullover — but flew in a khaki Air Force helicopter accompanied by senior officers and men carrying soldiers all in camouflage battle dress.

Many of the upazila chairmen have switched their allegiance from old opposition parties such as Awami League and the Bangladesh National Front, to pro-Ershad parties in the Jatiya Front, often in order to ensure a steady flow of the development funds of taka 10 million (about \$490,000) a year which are allocated to each of them.

It is in Nilchit and the other upazilas that Gen. Ershad hopes to establish his political base. "The days of the old political parties are over, and their present leadership cannot deliver anything to the nation. We need a new younger generation," he said.

It is a view which is developing generally in the country, and one for which the disorganised opposition parties have only themselves to blame — Financial Times news feature.

Oman rushes into modern times

By Robert H. Reid
The Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman — From its barren mountains at the mouth of the Arabian Gulf and across the desert to the lush banana fields on its southwestern coast, Oman is rushing to catch up with the 20th century while the oil money still flows.

A country that only 15 years ago spurned modern life is feverishly building roads, schools and hospitals, while its brightest youngsters are trained abroad.

Thanks to oil exports, which provide about 60 per cent of national revenue, bedouin nomads now drive Japanese trucks across plains that in 1970 had 10 kilometres of paved roads. And they pitch their tents within sight of satellite stations that link this once-hermit nation of 1.5 million people to the outside world.

In Salalah, a regional capital 1,000 km south of Muscat, families who once expected to lose two children in three to disease now receive free medical care in a well-equipped hospital.

White-robed men sit in the spotless waiting room cradling rifles, as much a part of local dress as their robes and turbans.

New communities of glass and concrete office buildings and smart villas — among the cleanest towns of the Middle East — sprawl over the hills on the eastern fringe of Muscat.

In contrast, about 80 km to the northwest, thousands of Omanis live much as their ancestors did, in mud-and-stone dwellings clustered among the palms of desert oases.

Omani officials acknowledge they have a long way to go to catch up with their richer neighbours, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The drop in world oil prices from \$40 a barrel six years ago to \$27 or less today has raised questions about whether the pace of development will continue.

Looking ahead to the day when its oil reserves of 4 billion barrels do run out, the government is trying to develop agriculture and mineral deposits, including copper, chrome and marble, as alternate sources of export earnings.

"The problem is... time," Edu-

cation Minister Yahya Bin Mahfoudh Al Matheri said in an interview. "Oman in 1970 was nothing... We are running, not walking, to get our infrastructure built."

Oman has been marketing oil since 1967. Its current production is about 500,000 barrels a day. At that rate, its petroleum reserves could last 50 more years, but the oil market and prices are unpredictable.

Oil income up to now has raised Oman's annual per capita income from \$100 to \$4,000. The accomplishments brought by the petrodollars and the desire to modernise have been staggering.

In 1970, about 90 pupils, all male, were enrolled in the three primary schools, the country's only educational institutions. Today, according to the Education Ministry, 225,000 youngsters are studying in more than 590 schools.

Forty-three per cent of the students are female, although a 1984 government study found that about half drop out in early grades because "many parents" believe their daughters have enough education if they can read and write.

The government plans to open the country's first university next year with 500 students. Meanwhile, more than 5,000 Omanis are studying abroad on government scholarships, mostly in Egypt, Jordan, Britain and the United States.

Since 1970, the number of hospital beds has grown from 12 to nearly 3,000, and teams of doctors and nurses roam the countryside teaching staff largely illiterate bedouin Arabs the rudiments of sanitation and health care.

The changes are largely the work of Oman's absolute ruler, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, a 45-year-old graduate of Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy who has governed since 1970.

Sultan Qaboos came to power

in a coup against his father, Sultan Said Bin Taimur, who ascended the throne in 1932 and maintained a medieval society to keep his people safe from what he regarded as the dangers of foreign influence.

Once in power, Qaboos began a policy of reconciliation and development that the government calls the national renaissance.

With help from Iran and Jordan in 1975, Qaboos largely British-trained army defeated a 10-year-old rebellion in the southern Dhofar province.

The young Sultan offered amnesty to those willing to give their loyalty and Omani edicts were asked to return and help build the country. Those who did were virtually the only Omanis who could read and write.

Because Oman has provided mass education for less than a generation, the country still relies heavily on foreigners — Egyptian and Sudanese teachers, Indian doctors, British civil servants.

The role of foreigners extends even to the military. Commanders of both the Omani air force and navy are Britons on contract to the Sultan. British commissioned and non-commissioned officers, including some on loan from regular British units, still serve in all branches of the military.

The United States also has a presence here. In 1980, U.S. military forces were permitted the use of Omani ports and airfields in exchange for military and economic aid.

Oman maintains a low profile in the Middle East political arena, although it lines up with other Arab countries opposing Israel. It was one of three nations of the Arab League — the others were Somalia and Sudan — that did not break relations with Egypt when it signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

LETTERS

Praise to the critic

To the Editor
IT is with especial joy each week that I read the Saturday article of your TV critic, John Boteler. His amusing remarks and assessments of the coming week's programmes have given me many a chuckle, and I sympathise with him wholeheartedly when he complains of the number of occasions when the advertised programmes do not appear. There is nothing more irritating than to have waited patiently for maybe 15 or 20 minutes past the advertised time for the completion of the 8 p.m. news (i.e. 8.30) only for the sinking realisation to creep up on me (once again) that my favourite comedy programme is just not going to appear — without an apology, or even an explanation.

I appreciate Mr. Boteler's explanation that it is usually not JTV's fault that some programmes do not arrive — this is obviously extremely embarrassing for them and is presumably beyond their control. But when the News is allowed to over-run by sometimes as much as 15 minutes for relatively unimportant news items, then it must be their fault. If American or British TV programmes over-run by as much as a few seconds, then heads roll, but, nevertheless, an apology is always made to the viewer.

Along with most other expatriates here in Jordan, I am extremely grateful to JTV for its Foreign Programme, especially as I am unable to speak Arabic, but I would really love to know why JTV has so often to transmit the same programme on both the Main and Foreign channels, thus severely limiting the advantage of having 2 channels. Then, later in the evening — sometimes only 5 minutes before the completion of the last programme — an often-absorbing thriller is interrupted for the News in Arabic. The spell is broken, and I'm sure that more than half of JTV's viewing audience switches off and goes to bed.

There's been an invention out for some years now called video equipment, so why can't JTV "video" the 11 p.m. News, and transmit it at the end of the last programme for those who wish to see it. However, since by that time we've had the News in Hebrew, French, Arabic and English, surely the entire population of Jordan must just about know the contents of the News by heart.

So, JTV, how about a New Year's resolution? To stick to the published programme times, and also to tape the 11 p.m. News? Meanwhile, John Boteler, keep up the good work and congratulations to the editorial staff of the Jordan Times who obviously support you, and that other critic of bureaucratic nonsense, Randa Habib.

Timothy W. Amman

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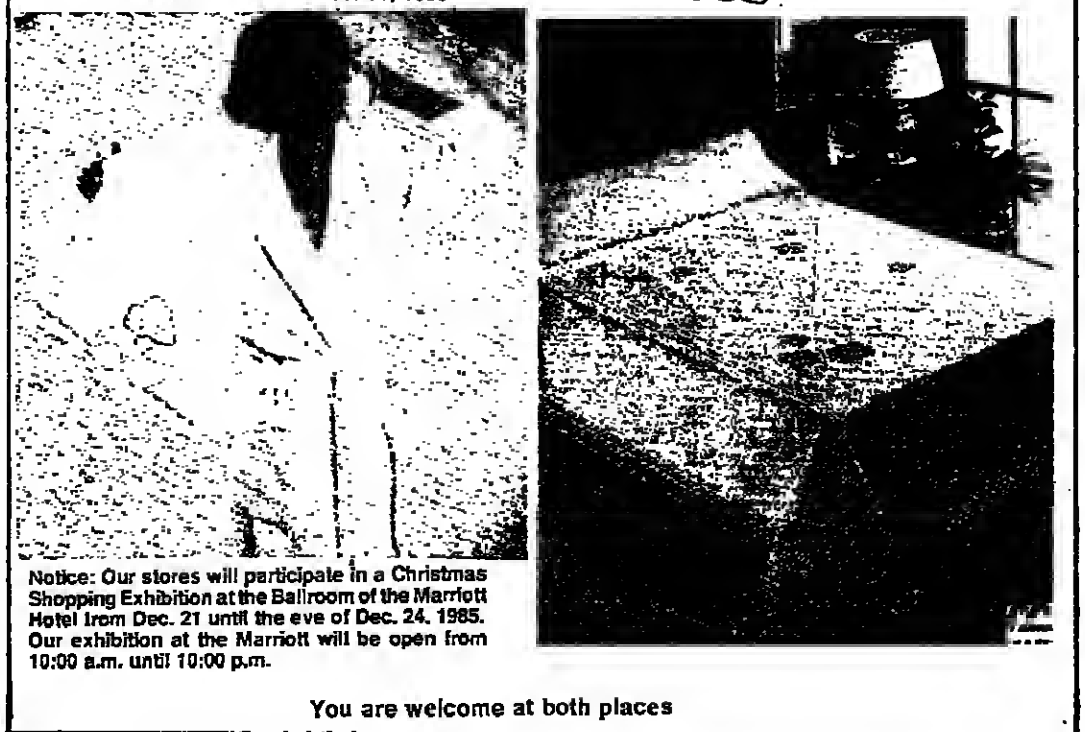
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You are welcome at both places

Prince Hassan: Islam is advocate of genuine peace among peoples of all races

Following is the full text of an address His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delivered at the closing session on Monday of a meeting in Vienna of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI). The Crown Prince and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan co-chair the ICHI, which was established under a special resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly.

MANKIND today stands at crossroads. The possibility of unprecedented prosperity through technological knowledge is as great as the possibility of unprecedented catastrophe through ethical poverty. In this century, human wisdom has not kept pace with human knowledge. The gap between the knowledgeable and the ignorant, between the strong and the weak, between the rich and the poor continues to widen inexorably.

Peace and global security are prerequisites not only for economic development and social progress but for the very survival of mankind. Steadily but surely, there is a growing global awareness that we need to live together in peaceful co-existence, whatever our creed or colour and whatever our religion or belief.

It is, therefore, appropriate that, at this meeting, we should try to affirm the commonality of our interests and re-assert that the desire for peace is common among all men and that religions have common ethical values and ideological teachings in so far as "peace-building" is concerned.

In our "search for peace," it is no longer enough for us to depend upon traditional methods of negotiations between diplomats and horse-trading between politicians and generals. There is need for a new consensus which must emerge from the common will cemented

by common values and beliefs.

Einstein once said, "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." Let me add that understanding is not possible without empathy and without constructive dialogue.

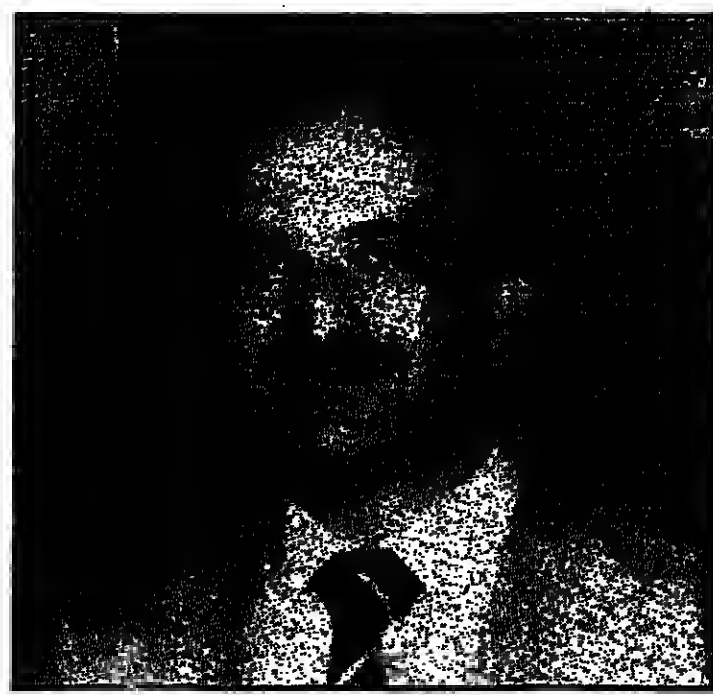
It is my pleasant duty at this meeting to comment on the Muslim view of peace. Let me start by recalling that the word "Islam" derives from a root which means "peace" and "submission." It is interpreted to mean the attainment of peace through submission to the will of God, through conformity to divine law and guidance. The Islamic concept of divine law includes all law governing and regulating the universe in which peace and order are deemed essential for material, moral and spiritual progress.

Among the tributes of God, the Koran mentions that He is the source of peace and the bestower of security. The Muslim greeting in all parts of the world is *Salam Alekum* meaning "Peace be upon you."

It is said in the Koran: "Do not go about committing inequity on Earth and causing disorder" (VII: 75).

And again in Surah XXVIII, Verse 78, it is said: "Verily, God loves not those who seek to create disorder."

And in Surah Bakara, Verse 208 reads:



"O, You who believe, enter into complete peace and further out the footsteps of the devil."

And further, in Surah Al Hujarat, Verse 10 states:

"The believers are brethren so make peace between your brethren and keep your duty to Allah that mercy may be had on you."

The theme of peace runs all through the Koran and many more verses could be added to those I just cited. Likewise, many quotations could be provided from the holy books of other major religions to prove that it is not the message of God which varies on the subject of peace but the doings of men and the interpretations they may give to holy words.

Between Muslims, Christians and Jews, there are bonds of faith strengthened by common heritage. Let me here quote from Surah Bakara, Verse 136:

"Say: we believe in God and (in) that which has been revealed to us, and (in) that which was revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Tribes, and (in) that which was given to Moses and Jesus and (in) that which was given to the prophets from their Lord, we do not make any distinction between any of them..."

The point I wish to make here is that despite common ethics and beliefs, the history of the last thousand years and more, is full of

conflict and fighting between Muslims, Christians and Jews. It is incumbent upon us to analyse the underlying causes of conflict and, through common will, try to eliminate them. Gatherings such as this can help us in that process.

In recent years, we have witnessed the resurgence of religious faith in practically all parts of the world. It is an indication of man's desire, in face of the colossal challenges of contemporary society, to seek security and peace, once again, in the realm of religious faith. However, this phenomenon need not be seen as a return to the past or as anti-progress.

There is need, in Islam, as in other faiths, for what we call "Ijtihad, Jam'ee," a need to interpret religious tenets to meet the demands of circumstances. True Islam is against fanaticism and against intolerance. It is therefore a great pity that in some quarters, moderation and tolerance are giving way to blind belief and religious fervour which work against the attainment of peace.

It is even greater pity that the media often provide to the general public a biased view of the teachings of Islam.

Mr. Chairman,

For the general public, which is well-meaning but not always well-informed, the image that Islam presents today is that of fundamentalism and fanaticism. In fact, the two seem to mean the same thing to most people. Of course, they do have common features. Both are divisive and destructive forces. But let us not forget that they are not uniquely a part of the Muslim history. In all major religions and faiths, they have and continue to play their unfortunate role. What should be taken into account are the basic tenets of religion. In the case of Islamic law, the Sharia teaches tolerance and moderation. In the Muslim World as elsewhere, these teachings must prevail if we are to build peace on solid foundations.

To ensure a safe and secure world for our children and to safeguard millions of our fellow human beings, it is essential that all men of good will, whatever their religion or country, struggle against divisive and destructive

forces.

Major faiths and religions of the world have a key role to play in the process of peace-building. It is a process which must begin from grass roots. It has been said that peace is too important to be left to politicians and generals. Peace should be the main concern of those who pay the highest price for the breakdown of its ordinary men, women and children who are the innocent victims. It will, of course, be naive to think that armed conflicts can be totally eliminated from all parts of the world within the foreseeable future. This cannot be achieved without eliminating the root causes. But what can be done is to ensure humane treatment to the innocent victims of these conflicts. The treatment of victims of war is one of the areas our Commission is examining. Historically, Islam has been a leader in the development of humanitarian law relating to war and peace. The Koran, the Hadith and the practice of Caliphs, from the beginning of Islam, have provided a code of conduct.

Mr. Chairman,

Islam is not just a religion based on articles of faith. It is a way of life and a complete code of social conduct. Its principles regulate not only the individual's spiritual life but also his daily life in family and in the community. In Islam, as in other religions, if the teachings were followed, this planet will be a safer and better place to live in.

Mr. Chairman,

There is not enough time to go into details of the role Islam as a religion can play in the process of peace building. The message I would like to leave with this distinguished gathering is that it is incumbent upon all of us to use our faith in the process of peace building. A constructive dialogue between religions will strengthen our faith in our common destiny. It will also undoubtedly show us that we have not only common problems but also common solutions. Their pursuit should be our common goal if we are to build a just and durable peace on earth.

Thank You

Randa Habib's Corner

Matching drives

If you are still single and looking for your future partner, then all you have to do is drive your car slowly in front of one of Amman's colleges at the end of class hours.

At least this is what so many young men are doing. If you happen to be near the 5th Circle at 1.30 p.m., take a turn through the street facing the Nursing School. You will find tens of future female nurses, coming out of their classes while tens of boys, in their latest models of cars, driving slowly in order to have an adequate view of the girls.

Of course the normal and daily result is a great traffic jam — but who cares? The same thing is happening in Shmeisani or in Jabel Luwelbdeh.

Near the Secretariat College at Jabel Luwelbdeh, the young ladies, the future secretaries, come out of the building and the future husbands are in the waiting, searching in the crowd for the woman of their dreams. Of course our students are aware of the attention they are provoking, and with a shy smile on the face and eyes pointed to the ground they speed on their way home.

Well, this seems to be the only way that most young people could meet. What a pity. After all the matching depends only on two things: The appearance of the girl and the make of the car.

What an unhealthy way to meet. People will always make partners; it is the law of nature. But why should young people meet this way? This, in my mind and in the minds of many people, is an uncivilised way of courting. People should not be judged by appearance or the make of their car. People should meet, talk, laugh and form real opinions on each other. Cars scrambling in front of schools create only confusion, pollution, accidents and a primitive expression of status.



"The most important goal is to protect the development of the next generation of children — both to defend the child's right to life and to invest in the progress of the poor world. For there is a fundamental connection between the physical and mental development of children and the social and economic development of their nations" — The State of the World's Children 1986, UNICEF

To help UNICEF help children buy UNICEF greeting cards, call 624571 or 668171.

Mud building: The Jordanian experience

The higher demand for housing and the rise in the cost of building materials during the last three decades prompted scientific and architects to look for and study traditional building methods. One such traditional method is building in mud. In the following article, the third in a series of three, Jordan Times reporter Najwa Najjar reviews the history, techniques and contemporary pioneers of building in mud:

AMMAN — Nowadays it is very rare to find earth architecture in Jordan. The present trend is to build in cement or stone. However, there exists a form which is native to Jordan mud building. At one time all houses in this area were constructed from raw earth. Building in mud, its whole tradition and process is Arabic. It can be traced back to Jericho, one of the earliest human settlements that have been discovered. The benefits of mud and the process involved are now almost forgotten. This is unfortunate, not only because of the advantages of mud buildings, but also because mud bricks are a traditional element in Arab architecture.

Last year this form of building was rediscovered. Amani and Hazem Malhas built Ali Ghandour's house/gallery at Shunneh in the Jordan Valley from raw earth. This was the first architecturally designed mud house which has been erected in Jordan and that first experience, for both Amani and Hazem, was pleasurable and a struggle at the same time.

Building a house of mud was more than a mere experiment for Amani Malhas the architect of the house and her brother, Hazem. Both feel that architecture respects the society's culture. "What is said is that the architecture in our country is poor and does not relate to the past, present or future. Architecture reflects the social, economic, political and psychological situation of the people. It further is what remains after the people are gone. Therefore, I feel that it is important for young architects to go back to our culture and heritage to show that we have a background and that our culture is rich. If proper use is made of that source, we shall have something to pass onto future generations," said Hazem, who was the contracting engineer.

With these thoughts in mind they began their research. For six months they researched the traditional Arab mud building techniques. The process, the structural elements and the layout were studied, ironically enough, from Western books, even though most of the mud buildings exist in developing countries. Both Amani and Hazem were influenced by Mr. Hassan Fathy, a prominent Egyptian architect, who has played a main role in returning to the forms and methods of earth architecture.

One of the first things they had

to do was to find a masterbuilder, one who had previous experience with building in mud. It did not take Amani and Hazem as long as they expected to find Fadel. Fadel claims that he is the only masterbuilder left in Jordan.

Five labourers and Fadel used the process employed thousands of years ago. A dough-like mixture of soil, water, straw and cowdung is placed into a rectangular mould to produce 15x20x40 cm bricks. The bricks are left to dry for one month in the sun. The workers averaged 600 bricks a day. The 35,000 bricks required for the house were done in a little less than two months. However, from the time of excavation to completion, four months were needed.

The sun-dried bricks must rest on a stone foundation so they would not soak the moisture from the ground. "The construction method is to have the bricks interlocking. At a certain stage when we finished laying the foundation and building the structure, the house looked like ancient archaeological ruins, because the same construction methods were being used. We felt we were repeating the process that the Persians had used 2000 years ago, and the Romans even before them," said Hazem.

"The forms and shapes one can achieve with mud are inherent in the material," said Amani. "You cannot have square windows, they would not hold, so you must have arches. Earlier they used to put holes in the walls for windows. For roofing, domes, barrel vaults and wooden beams are what work. A square room must be fitted with a dome or wooden beams, a rectangular room with a barrel vault roof," she explained.

After plastering the structure with the dough-like mixture, the carpentry, electrical and mechanical work had to be done. For filling they decided not to resort to anything foreign, so they used baked smaller abode bricks. Hazem had to experiment with the tiles, as he had to with the painting. "It was a struggle. We had to research and experiment everything. For example, when we painted the walls inside the house, they absorbed the paint. Consequently Hazem had to find some natural substance to saturate the walls with, and then apply the paint. Our experimenting meant a loss of two weeks time," said Amani.

Amani expressed some dis-



One of Jordan's rare mud houses in the Jordan Valley dating back to earlier years of the 20th century (File photo)

appointment over the lack of encouragement from the people in Jordan.

"My expectation was not to build all by myself, but to share my experience with architects and with students of architecture in Jordan, to have them co-operate with me and to motivate them to use traditional techniques. Some professors of architecture at the University of Jordan knew that a mud house was being built and where. However, very few students were informed, and it was only after it was finished that they learned about it. So the excitement was confined to us, to close friends and the Ghandours," he said.

On the other hand, the people in the Jordan Valley were very encouraging. "They were so excited about the house, they would come to watch and help. They expressed their desire to build with mud, but they do not have the time to make the bricks. It is much easier for them to buy readymade concrete blocks," said Amani.

It would be beneficial for the people in the Jordan Valley to return to the ancient process which is culturally and historically linked to Jordan's past. The low-cost technique may also solve several of their financial problems.

As for Jordan's urban areas, zoning poses some problems, because the use of any building material other than stone is forbidden in the capital, Amman, and other cities or major towns. In many areas of Jordan cement blocks are the only construction material used, but there are still many projects on the way, where mud bricks may be a viable solution. "Museums, theatres, parks, government buildings, housing projects are being developed, to which more attention should be given. Well-designed, they can express our culture. There should be a higher degree of sensitivity for regional particularities and needs when we design these buildings. Awareness of the importance of architecture is a must. We have one of the oldest cultures, and one important means to show its sophistication is to reflect it in today's architecture," said Hazem.

CENTRAL TENDER No. 153/85

Construction of the Compulsory schools/ The Sixth Education Project

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Sixth Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the project directorate, Ministry of Education from 14/12/1985 with the following conditions:

1. The Sixth Education Project is partially financed by the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development, and the compulsory schools were divided into ten groups and this tender buildings constitute the 4th group.

2. Description of the announced tender:

No. 153/85 which includes the construction of compulsory schools at the following sites: Jerash, Jerash-Ajloun. With an area of 1,400m²

3. Prices of the documents and tender bond as follow:

Tender No.	Price	Tender Bond
153/85	JD 250	JD 50,000

4. Last date for receiving copy of tender is 19/1/1986.
5. Last date of submission of offers is 11 O'clock 26.1.1986 at the Department of Government Tender Directorate.

Chairman of the Central Committee
Director of the Government
Tendering Directorate.



Mr. Ali Ghandour's summer house in the Jordan Valley (File photo)

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Weakened Swedes hope to retain Davis Cup title

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg will play singles for Sweden in the 1985 Davis Cup tennis final against West Germany this weekend, Swedish coach Hans Olsson said Wednesday.

Anders Jarryd, suffering from flu, remains a candidate for doubles, Olsson said. Jarryd was in bed for two days after the Swedish team arrived in the Bavarian capital and missed all training sessions.

He watched his teammates practice in Munich's Olympic Hall Wednesday but did not take part himself in the three-hour session.

"We hope that Jarryd will be able to play doubles. He is one of the best doubles players in the world and we would be very handicapped if he were unable to play," Olsson said.

"But his chances to play are not very good because he has not trained and he is still quite ill." "I am disappointed but I hope I can play at least doubles. Singles

would be too hard for me, I think," a dejected Jarryd said.

"But I believe in our team and I'm confident that we'll retain our Davis Cup title," Jarryd said.

Sweden has brought in Jan Gunnarsson as its fifth player, in case the team suffers any injuries.

Olsson said he had been considering Joakim Nystrom to play singles with Wilander. Nystrom beat Boris Becker at the U.S. Open after the teen-age West German scored his sensational victory at Wimbledon in July.

"I think Becker has a lot of respect for Nystrom but on this very fast surface Edberg has a slight edge," Olsson said.

The West German organisers have placed a carpet over a specially installed asphalt foundation in the Olympic Hall, hoping that the fast surface will give the hard-serving Becker an edge over the favoured Swedes.

Becker leads a West German team which is hoping to win the Davis Cup for the first time.

When the Swedes finished their training session, Becker took to

Sweden will likely do without the services of Anders Jarryd, who is suffering from influenza, in its Davis Cup final match against West Germany this weekend. Jarryd may still play doubles, but his number two singles slot behind Mats Wilander has been filled by Stefan Edberg, who won the Australian Open two weeks ago.

the court to exchange cannonball shots with his doubles and sparring partner, Slobodan Zivonjovic of Yugoslavia.

The two players blasted serves on the fast surface under the sup-



Greek hoop-players gain respect

By Stefan Fatsis
Associated Press Writer

ATHENS, Greece — Despite makeshift courts, undersized players and little money, Greece's national basketball team has reached the World Cup finals for the first time — thanks in part to a contingent of Greek-Americans.

Leading the way is the country's top player, 28-year-old Nick Galis, a naturalized Greek citizen who played college ball at Seton Hall. He scored 33 points as Greece beat Bulgaria 111-81 last month to become one of 24 qualifiers for the 1986 event in Spain.

The 1.84-metre guard who plays for Aris of Salonica has led the Greek league in scoring every year since he arrived in 1979. Along with about 15 other Greek-American players, Galis, of Union City, New Jersey, is credited with raising standards and stimulating interest in basketball here.

"We're starting to catch up with the rest of the world," Galis said.

"We beat France in World Cup qualifying. We played Yugoslavia and lost by a point. Greece is getting there," said Galis, who is sixth on Seton Hall's all-time scoring list with an average of 17 points a game.

Weekly television coverage and increased state funding for basketball have helped promote an amateur sport that still isn't played in most Greek high schools.

But Greece's 14-team first division is characterized by inadequate facilities, inexperienced coaches, undersized players and impoverished clubs.

"One problem the Greeks have is size. They're just not a very tall people," said David Stergakos Nelson, a 2-metre tall center from Montclair, New Jersey, who has played for Panathinaikos, the top Athens team, since 1978.

Greece also is one of the few European countries to ban foreigners from league play. The only exceptions are Greek-Americans, but even they must become Greek citizens to be considered for the national team.

The Greek-Americans in the 168-player first division draw bigger crowds to basketball games, but say they often have salary disputes with team management.

"You never know whether you'll get paid or not. You've always got problems with the team," Nelson said.

Greek clubs are plagued by chronic financial problems that prevent them from building new arenas that would attract enough fans to turn a profit.

"How are teams supposed to make money? From ticket sales? The arenas hold 500 or 1,000 people," said Michalis Kirinis, head coach of Panathinaikos, which plays on a concrete court covered with green plastic beneath a soccer stadium stand.

Aris, the league's top franchise, boasts one of Greece's three hardwood floors and draws about

5,000 fans a game. But one league source estimated the club will lose \$530,000 this season.

The imported players say Greek league play often is unorthodox by European and American standards, with games dominated by often wild-shooting guards at the expense of passing and defence.

But Greece is spending \$1.3 million this year, seven times more than in 1980, to develop coaching and playing talent.

"We're taking gradual steps to improve the sport. I think we're slowly earning our place in the European basketball community," national team coach Costas Politis said.

The Greek Basketball Federation is recruiting new players, from all over the country. Since 1981, more than 7,000 young Greeks aged 10 and up have signed with club teams.

PREQUALIFICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CENTRES AND NURSING

PARAMEDICAL INTEGRATED TRAINING INSTITUTE N.P.I.T.I. IN IRBID

INVITATION FOR BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Local Jordanian contractors classified in either general grade or first class (building) and contractors of the member countries of World Bank, Taiwan/China, and Switzerland, who would like to participate in being prequalified for the construction of:

1. Primary and comprehensive health centres.
2. N.P.I.T.I. in Irbid.

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project consists of the following buildings:

- 25 centres (P.H.C.) of 370 sq. m. each.
- 2 Centres (C.H.C.) of 730 sq. m. each.
- 8 centres (C.H.C.) of 800 sq. m. each.
- 3 centres (C.H.C.) of 1000 sq. m. each.

The (38) centres are to be constructed on different sites.

The tenders for construction are sliced in (6) packages and shall be announced in sequence.

— N.P.I.T.I. in Irbid:

The project of 3 buildings, student residence of an area 5863 M2, staff residence of an area 285 M2 and the academic building of an area 3772 M2.

B. These projects are financed partially by the World Bank.

C. Prequalification forms may be obtained from the government tenders directorate-ministry of public works - Amman.

Starting 18th Dec. 1985.

Against a non-refundable of JD (25) for health centres, and JD (15) for N.P.I.T.I. The last date for obtaining forms shall be 2nd Feb. 1986.

- Fedic forms shall be used, and the prequalification submission shall include supporting documentation.
- Capital shall be quoted in U.S. dollars.
- Last date for submission of prequalification forms shall be 8th Feb. 1986.

D. Prequalification results will be announced, on 19th, Feb. 1986.

E. Any queries concerning prequalification shall be addressed to:

Chairman - Central Tenders Committee.
Ministry of Public Works.
P.O. Box (1220) Telex (21944) JO,
Amman - Jordan.

Director,
Government Tenders
Directorate.

WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN SALT SEWERAGE SYSTEMS CONTRACT S2/159/85

The Water Authority of Jordan invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland, Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been classified as general, first and second class water and sewerage and general class buildings and roads contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of the Salt Contract No. S2 Water and Sewerage Systems. The project consists of supply and construction of about 12 KM of sewers ranging in diameter between 150 to 200 MM. Foreign bidders are strongly recommended to associate with local contractors.

A prebid conference will be held on Tuesday Jan. 7th 1986 at 9:00 a.m. at the Water Authority Main Office in Amman.

On or before Jan. 7th 1986 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in sealed envelope or in person or by mail the information on their firm or firms of the joint venture requested in the instruction to bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.

The bids are due not later than 12:00 noon Jordan local time on Tuesday Feb. 11th 1986 at the Water Authority Main Office in Amman.

Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following Address:

Water Authority, Jabal Hussein, Nabulus Street
P.O. Box 2412 Tlx: 22439 WAJ JO Amman Jordan

In payment of non-refundable JD 50 for the first copy and JD 25 for the second copy.

WAJ President
Eng. Mohammad Saleh Kellani

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OBITUARY

The Department of Antiquities, the Archaeological Institutes and the Friends of Archaeology in Jordan sadly announce the untimely death of:

Dr. Anthony Walter McNicoll

on 16 December 1985 in Sydney-Australia at the age of 42. Dr. McNicoll, who spent most of his career in Jordan, was co-director of the excavations at Tobagat Fahil-Pella in the Jordan Valley. He will be much missed by his friends and fellow archaeologists.

THE Daily Crossword by Alfie Mical

ACROSS

1. Lie
5. Are gratie
10. Mafplead
14. Stupor
15. Tuscany's birthplace
16. Cupid
17. Popper desert
20. Legal point
21. Copper
22. Indolent
23. All
24. Calabas ox
25. Freeraker
26. Hat feature
29. Nucleic acid
33. Inclining
34. Goody stuff
35. Prudice
36. Ty Cobb
39. Evening in Rome
40. Glen
41. Memorable skater
42. Mos. and mos.
43. Baseball Rose
44. Pina
45. Saharan
46. Chaney
47. 11 Meille opus
48. 12 Free a lawn
49. 13 Come
50. Designer
51. Card game
52. 18 Card game
53. 19 Mighty mite
54. 24 Palmerio friends
57. Breakfast fare
58. Add
59. Farm unit
60. Dispatch
61. Finnish lake
62. Shed

DOWN

1. Cleatix
2. Trust
3. Rescale
4. Chum
5. Add
6. Wet
7. Weight allowance
8. "Yankee Doodle"
9. Cr. city
10. Vampire
11. Meille opus
12. Free a lawn
13. Come
14. Card game
15. 18 Card game
16. 19 Mighty mite
17. 24 Palmerio friends
18. 25 Fall guy
19. 26 Anesthetic
20. 27 Stadium features
21. 28 Water plant
22. 29 Ol roscar
23. 30 Laughing
24. 31 Songwriter
25. 32 Wan
26. 33 Rape
27. 34 Borscht
28. 35 Ingredient
29. 36 Maka a wrong assessment
30. 37 Of sound
31. 38 Hammer part
32. 39 Panper
33. 40 Easel
34. 41 Kind of sculpin
35. 42 Wane
36. 43 Stable mother
37. 44 even keel
38. 45 Pro
39. 46 Art
40. 47 A Hine
41. 48 "a man with..."
42. 49 Hair
43. 50 Yeg's father

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4265/75	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3963/68	Canadian dollars
	2.5088/98	West German marks
	2.8275/85	Dutch guilders
	2.1070/80	Swiss francs
	51.45/51.50	Belgian francs
	7.6925/75	French francs
	1711/1712	Italian lire
	203.15/30	Japanese yen
	7.6850/69.50	Swedish crowns
	7.6600/6700	Norwegian crowns
	9.1225/1325	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	320.40/90	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed higher after a mixed start and at 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 12.7 up at 1,378.1. Dealers said the recent decline attracted some institutional demand. ICI was 5p higher at 736, Lucas added 13p to 448, and Bechtel advanced 7p to 330. In firm banks, Deutsche Bank rose £14 to 236 following heavy demand for the placement of its 3.4 million Daimler-Benz shares in Frankfurt on Wednesday. Gold shares declined and government bonds fell up to about ¼ point while North American were steady to mixed.

Tratalfar House was 5p up at 338 after news it sold its 50 per cent holding in the Evening Standard company to Associated Newspapers for an undisclosed sum. Dealers said stores improved in late seasonal demand on the back of Wednesday's firmer market trend with Woolworths 10p higher at 518, while Boots at 259 and Burton at 548 both added 7p. Breweries also gained with Bass 15p up at 650.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good time to get at whatever shopping you have to do with the confidence that you will be able to find exactly what you want. Don't act too impulsively.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have fine ideas of a personal nature and are not without the get much done today. Try to act bravely.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be with one you trust and make a new and better plan for the future. Get right to work on this new course.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be with good friends who are dynamic and have fine ideas that can help to make your future brighter.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Handle civic and credit affairs wisely during the daytime. Let bigwigs be more aware of your finest abilities.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good day for changes and making new associates since this brings real progress. Plan a trip.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can get your business affairs handled more wisely so that you can have greater progress in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Improve conditions around you and stop feeling so lackadaisical. Make arrangements with partners.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can get much done today because the air is full of enthusiasm so get busy early. Put your best ideas to work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study into the amusement that you particularly like, one which you have not enjoyed of late.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Give more attention to kin and show that family means a great deal to you. Invite guests in who can bring pleasure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are full of good ideas and can gain benefits very easily now. Handle communications very wisely.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Put new ideas to work that can bring you fine benefits, so stop wasting time. Entertain friends tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be alive and alert to everything that is happening around him or her and will be eager to learn and gain new ideas. Send to schools which will give an opportunity to test different facets of various interests, then the right profession will be decided upon for life.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 20, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an exceptional day for shopping. Go after whatever you want today and tonight with courage, character and conviction. Good friends will help.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are highly inspired and should go after your wishes without wasting a moment's time.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact a bigwig who can give you support, and state your aims. Handle your work with much efficiency.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A good day to see as many persons as you can and get the finest benefits possible.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get busy working on some new plan that can bring you greater abundance; go about this in a positive manner.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have new ideas and can get assistance from one of a different background, which can add to your own experience.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Try to keep the promises you have made to the best of your ability. Keep busy working all day long.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Have a candid talk with a bigwig and come to a fine agreement. Listen to new ideas and analyze them cleverly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Use your own ideas for some work you have to do; don't permit others to influence you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have excellent ideas for putting your talents to work. Later, have fun at what you like to do, but don't overspend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't yield to pressure at home so that your life does not become too difficult. Be more idealistic, no matter what arises.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can be highly productive, but don't make radical changes. Be with partners who are helpful to you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Seek the assistance of a powerful person who can give you the help you need. Cut down on heavy expenses.

Britain plans tighter control over banks

LONDON (AP) — The British government announced plans Tuesday for tighter control of banks in response to the £248 million (\$357 million) collapse last year of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

The proposed new legislation would strengthen the Bank of England's supervisory powers over larger banks like Johnson Matthey, which have been operating largely on trust, under the assumption that they were acting honestly and competently.

The Johnson Matthey collapse, said a white paper published by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, revealed "serious weaknesses" in banking supervision. New legislation will be introduced "at the earliest possible opportunity," it said.

"London's pre-eminence as a world banking centre is based on freedom and probity. We are determined to preserve both," Mr. Lawson, the treasury secretary, said in the white paper, a publication which outlined the government's plans with the aim of provoking discussion while legislation is being written.

In the House of Commons, opposition Labour legislator, Mr. Brian Sefton, clashed bitterly with Mr. Lawson, and Labour's

chief economics spokesman, Mr. Roy Hattersley, said the proposals were "grossly inadequate" because they did not call for an independent supervisory body.

Mr. Sedgmore, who has made a series of charges in parliament alleging conflicts of interest and fraud in the financial world, said, Johnson Matthey had collapsed because of "wantonly negligence" by the governor of the Bank of England, Mr. Robin Leigh-Pemberton.

The white paper on banking is the first of two important measures expected this week in the government's effort to clean up the tarnished reputation of the London financial world.

On Thursday the government is expected to make public its financial services bill which will set up regulatory boards to control firms which seek investment business.

The measures will have a major impact on the financial district of central London called The City. It is the home of the Bank of England, the Lloyd's of London insurance market, hundreds of banking offices and commodities exchanges where world prices are set for essentials like sugar and coffee.

L. American debtors devise emergency plan

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Latin America's biggest debtors have put together an emergency plan to stave off a haemorrhage of cash and resources, a knock-on effect of the region's \$360 billion foreign debt which they say could jeopardise democracy.

The nine-point programme, representing Latin America's response to the U.S.-sponsored Baker plan, was spelt out in the final communiqué of a ministerial meeting of the 11-nation Cartagena Group which ended Tuesday.

"Latin America cannot wait. It is necessary to implement an emergency plan as soon as possible," the communiqué said.

"Unless the measures proposed are adopted, the region will face a grave situation which will oblige it to limit its net transfer of resources to avoid social and political instability that could reverse democratic processes," it said.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias told reporters that if the emergency plan failed, the Cartagena Group would have to take other measures to stop the outflow of cash which totalled \$100 billion over the last four years.

He said the figure was made up

of debt payments, loss of exports caused by protectionism, withdrawal of foreign investment and capital flight.

The communiqué welcomed proposals by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker to provide an extra \$29 billion in new lending to heavily indebted countries over three years.

But it said this was not enough to ensure growth and noted the Baker plan did not address interest rates, which should return to lower levels.

"Without a reduction in interest rates, any rescheduling efforts would be neutralised," the communiqué said.

The emergency plan called for banks to boost their lending to keep pace with world inflation and urged a substantial increase in credit.

Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo told reporters after the meeting that the Cartagena Group wanted commercial banks and multilateral agencies like the World Bank to provide at least three times more than the loans envisaged by Mr. Baker.

The communiqué said a committee would be set up to monitor the progress of the emergency plan.

Gypsum discovered in Qatar

DOHA (R) — Large deposits of gypsum have been found in Qatar and studies are being carried out to assess whether extraction is economically viable, an industrial report says. The report, by the Industrial Development Technical Centre, said easily-accessible surface deposits were estimated at 10 million tonnes. While sub-surface deposits will be determined in future studies. Reasonable quantities of shales and clay, some types of which could be used in chemical industries, for making firebricks or in cement industries, had also been found, it added.

Economist says dollar, world economy face hard landing

WASHINGTON (R) — A new world recession is likely as the dollar falls in value and U.S. interest rates rise, a private U.S. research institute forecast Wednesday.

The Institute for International Economics, in a study by Mr. Stephen Morris, said it would take major policy changes both in the United States and abroad to avoid such a scenario.

"The dollar will, over time, go down too far and there will be an unpleasant world recession," the study predicted, saying foreigners would stop investing in America when U.S. spending abroad outstripped earnings by 50 per cent.

This may not happen until the dollar has gone quite a long way further down," Mr. Morris, a senior fellow at the institute, said.

"But when it does, a crunch will develop in U.S. financial markets — with a sharp rise in interest rates while the dollar continues to fall — and there will be a stabilisation crisis."

Mr. Morris urged cooperation between the United States and its allies simultaneously to reduce the U.S. budget deficit and to expand economic activity abroad.

Barring policy changes, unemployment in Europe could rise to 14 per cent and total economic output in Japan might fall seven

percentage points as U.S. sales prospects fade, he predicted. He said the United States must trim its deficit or mounting foreign debts will balloon to \$1,000 billion by 1990.

Some progress is being made, Mr. Morris said, with the Sept. 22 agreement between the United States, Japan, Britain, France and West Germany to lower the dollar's value, and enactment last week by Congress of the Gramm-Rudman amendment requiring a balanced budget by 1991.

Since September the dollar has declined about 10 per cent against other leading international currencies. The flood of foreign-made goods into U.S. markets has slowed because a cheaper dollar

makes foreign goods and services more expensive.

But Europe and Japan must recognise that reducing the U.S. budget deficit could severely affect their economies by reducing export opportunities, the study said.

The solution, Mr. Morris said, is for U.S. allies to fuel domestic demand through expansionary tax and spending policies while Washington moves to bring its deficit under control.

"If such action were taken promptly, along with strong measures to cut the U.S. budget deficit, the hard landing could be averted and the conditions created for an orderly correction of the dollar in a growing world economy," Mr. Morris said.

Reagan vetoes textile quota bill

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has vetoed a bill to restrict shipments of foreign textiles and shoes to the United States, and Congress shied away from a showdown over the issue by postponing a vote to overturn his veto.

Mr. Reagan, a staunch opponent of trade protectionism, said Tuesday he vetoed the bill, which sets quotas on textile and shoe imports, because it would provoke retaliation against U.S. exports by other countries and cost American jobs.

"It is my firm conviction that the economic and human costs of such a bill run far too high," Mr. Reagan said.

Despite substantial support for the bill in Congress, the House of Representatives, which is dominated by opposition Democrats, immediately decided to postpone until Aug. 6, 1986 any consideration of overriding Mr. Reagan's veto.

The House action delays a confrontation between Mr. Reagan and Congress over the emotionally charged bill, which was passed as the country heads toward an expected record trade deficit this year of \$150 billion.

Meanwhile, lawmakers said they would seek to negotiate a compromise bill with the White House.

Although the textile bill passed both Houses of Congress by large margins, it won less than the two-thirds majority which would be needed to override a veto.

Mr. Reagan said he ordered Treasury Secretary James Baker to study the import levels of textiles and clothing to make sure the imports had not exceeded negotiated limits.

Mr. Baker will report back to him within 60 days, he said.

Mr. Reagan said he also told U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter to aggressively renegotiate the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) at terms no less favourable than present.

But the actions taken by Mr. Reagan did not appease domestic textile and apparel industry groups,

who had fought hard for passage of the vetoed bill, claiming it was the only way to save jobs in their industries from unfair foreign competition.

"We have heard proposals to remedy the problem such as the president is suggesting, but they have not worked and no one should be fooled into thinking they will work now," said Mr. Ellison McKissick, president of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute.

"We will continue to use every means at our command to bring about fairness and equity in textile and apparel trade," Mr. McKissick said in a statement.

Mr. Bill Klopman, chairman of the Fibre, Fabric and Apparel Coalition for Trade, called Mr. Reagan's veto "appalling."

"Mr. Reagan's veto guarantees the continued erosion of the nation's most important manufacturing sector," Mr. Klopman said.

And Congressman Bill Alexander, an Arkansas Democrat, likened Mr. Reagan to Charles Dickens' Christmas-busting scrooge for being "oblivious to the harder times he has created this holiday season for workers and businessmen in the south."

The vetoed bill would restrict textile imports from 11 Asian countries and Brazil, limit all leather shoe imports and require the administration to negotiate with foreign copper producers on reducing their output.

It would roll back textile imports in 1985 from South Korea and Taiwan by 30 per cent from their 1984 level and from Hong Kong by 14 per cent from its 1984 level.

The bill would also freeze imports this year from nine other countries — Japan, China, Pakistan, Indonesia, India, the Philippines, Thailand, Brazil and Singapore — at their 1984 level and limit further increases from all 12 countries.

It also would limit leather footwear imports for eight years to 60 per cent of estimated domestic consumption per year.

Reagan turns around Republicans on tax bill

In another move Mr. Reagan has turned around rebellious Republicans and won passage in the House of Representatives of his sweeping reform of the U.S. income tax system.

Tuesday night the House passed the bill providing for the broadest overhaul of the income tax system since it was created 72 years ago.

It now goes to the Senate for consideration next year.

Mr. Reagan fought for passage of the bill, chiefly written by the Democratic-dominated House Ways and Means Committee, after Republicans blocked its consideration last week because they feared it would cause a recession.

The president wanted it passed in order to move it along to the Republican-led Senate where it can be modified.

The bill passed after an attempt to send it back to the tax-writing committee failed by 171 to 256 with the help of 49 Republicans.

And a Republican alternative tax plan failed on a vote of 133 to 294, with the help of 54 Republicans.

Shortly after the vote, Mr. Reagan congratulated lawmakers for their work on the bill, but stressed that he still wanted revisions made in it before it reaches his desk.

"We now look to the Senate to move quickly and to make all necessary changes to ensure that the final bill is unequivocally pro-family, pro-jobs and pro-growth," he said in a statement.

S. Arabia to subsidise electricity

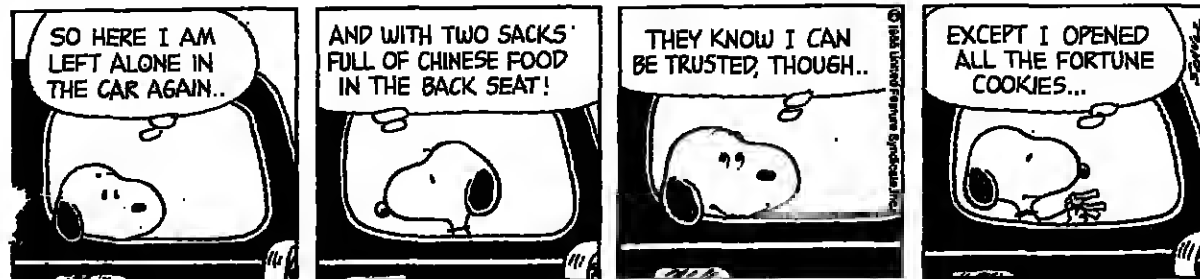
JEDDAH (R) — The Saudi Arabian government will subsidise up to three billion riyals (\$822 million) in electricity costs over the next five years, Finance Minister Mohammad Ali Abul Khalil said.

In a statement published Wednesday in the daily newspaper Okaz, he said this would cover the difference between the cost of running power stations and recently reduced prices to consumers.

Prices were reduced in an attempt to bring down the cost of living although, with most generators fuelled by Saudi Arabia's abundant oil and gas supplies, even the old rates were a fraction of those charged in most other countries.

The government had previously raised tariffs over a two-year period to help compensate for lower oil revenues.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"My memory training school is having a class reunion, but I can't remember where!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AVARL
ROIVS
PROTTE
UNMOLC

SOME MEN CAN'T BE TRUSTED TOO FAR — OR THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUMMY SURLY HEALTH GOVERN
Answer: The "one that got away" would have been bigger if the fisherman had this — LONGER ARMS

IPI accuses Western leaders of double standards

LONDON (R) — The International Press Institute (IPI), watchdog of press freedom throughout the world, Wednesday accused Western leaders of double standards in calling for curbs on media coverage, particularly of guerrilla attacks.

"It has been a year when we have heard calls for the oxygen of publicity to be cut off and a year when South Africa moved to starve its own terrorists," IPI said in its review of World Press Freedom in 1985.

"It has also been a year of strange double standards. Democratic world leaders who advocated limited reporting raised an outcry when South Africa finally pulled the plug," it added.

"Should they not both be looking for solutions that get to the real root of the problems, rather than killing the messenger that brought the bad news?" it asked.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called for a voluntary code of restraint on coverage of terrorist attacks in July.

The Reagan administration voiced support for the idea.

The institute, which has its secretariat in London, said restrictions of reporting of guerrilla incidents could force gunmen to even greater excesses that could not be ignored.

"Experience has shown that silence builds up mystery and provokes the best breeding ground for violent action."

"When it comes down to it, are the hijackers and kidnappers really any different from the governments who suppress the news? They both deprive us of freedom: the freedom of liberty and the freedom of speech."

IPI groups 2,000 editors and publishers worldwide. Its report, which reviewed press

freedom in 64 countries, singled out for special criticism South Africa, which banned press coverage of black unrest in November, and the Philippines, where it said a guarantee of press freedom often came off worse against a tradition of bribery, corruption and intimidation in high places.

The report also highlighted attempts to curb press freedom in both Britain and the United States. "Perhaps the real reason is to cover the fact that the government can't cope with their problems: Be they Cape riots or the sticky legacy of Northern Ireland. Censorship is a handy tool."

IPI said the Thatcher government was obsessed with secrecy.

In the United States, it said, "President Reagan's efforts to achieve further restrictions in 1985 met firm opposition from press and broadcast organisations," referring to administration attempts to weaken the Freedom of Information Act.

Ugandan peace pact may lead to foreign aid

NAIROBI (R) — With the Ugandan military government and rebels finally signing a peace agreement aimed at ending years of bloodshed, Britain immediately pledged its readiness to help rebuild its former colony.

Political analysts said the prompt British reaction to the long-awaited pact was an indication that Western nations would rally to Uganda's aid if peace prevailed.

News of the signing Tuesday was greeted with joy and relief in Kampala, although few people are confident that the fighting will suddenly stop just because the pact calls for an immediate ceasefire.

Head of state Gen. Tito Okello received a hero's welcome when he returned to the capital, and security guards were unable to prevent large crowds from blocking his way as he returned from Entebbe Airport in an open car.

Under the peace agreement, the Ugandan government will invite four Commonwealth countries — Britain, Canada, Kenya, and Tanzania — to help form and train a new national army to replace the rival factions that make up the country's fighting forces at present.

British Junior Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind Tuesday welcomed the accord, and said if the ceasefire held, Britain would help in economic reconstruction and military training.

Britain and other Western countries suspended their aid programmes in Uganda because of internal turmoil.

The peace agreement noted that the record of the last 20 years had discouraged Western nations from giving aid.

"Any continuation of armed conflict, dictatorial rule, denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms prevent development in Uganda as well as positive international cooperation with friendly and brotherly countries," it said.

Clearly at the National Resistance Army (NRA) leaders' insistence, the pact calls for the punishment of soldiers who committed atrocities when President Idi Amin ruled Uganda from 1971 to 1979 and those guilty of similar crimes since Gen. Okello seized power last July.

The rebels say they are the only Ugandans fighting group that has not been involved in atrocities and have frequently called for such criminals to be brought to trial.

Romania dismisses defence minister

VIENNA (R) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has announced that Defence Minister Constantin Olteanu had been relieved of his duties, the official News Agency Agrepress said.

The agency, monitored in Vienna, said he would be succeeded by his former first deputy and chief of staff Vasile Milea.

Mr. Ceausescu, speaking at a meeting of a high-level army group, was quoted as saying that Olteanu should transfer to party activity.

Last week, Olteanu had talks with his Soviet counterpart Sergei Sokolov in Moscow, Soviet state television reported. But details about the visit were scant.

Olteanu's move was the latest in a series of political changes in Bucharest. Agrepress also said Marin Enache had been named military minister in place of Nicolae Agachi who would move to other, unspecified duties.

Earlier Tuesday the agency reported the creation of a new food ministry, to be headed by George Pana, to combat chronic food shortages.

Last month, Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei was replaced by the little-known Iuliu Vladu but he was later named as one of 10 powerful Communist Party secretaries.

Congress I concedes defeat in Assam

DISPUR, India (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's governing Congress I Party conceded defeat Wednesday in Assam state elections to a student-led, anti-immigrant party whose supporters danced in the streets in jubilation.

The party also suffered setbacks in other by-elections.

Although only 21 of the 125 Assam state legislative races had been decided by Wednesday morning, incomplete returns showed that the new Assam People's Front (APF) was leading in 44 constituencies and Congress in 19.

Eleven of the 21 confined races went to APF and four of the seats were taken by Mr. Gandhi's party.

"We accept the people's verdict humbly," said Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia, who has headed the Congress Party state government since a turbulent 1983 election.

The mid-term Assam elections were called by Mr. Gandhi after he signed a settlement with APF President Prafulla K. Mahanta and other leaders of an anti-immigrant protest demanding the jettisoning of more than 1 million Bengali settlers who entered from a neighbouring Bangladesh.

The Congress Party suffered important setbacks in by-elections Monday in nine other Indian states. The special elections were to fill nine national parliamentary and seven state assembly vacancies caused by deaths and resignations.

Congress suffered an embarrassing defeat in Marxist-ruled West Bengal when former state chief Minister Siddhartha Shankar Ray lost a parliamentary race by a wide margin to a Communist leader.

Congress candidates for parliament and assembly were trounced in Bihar and Orissa states, but the party recovered some ground when Arjun Singh, Gandhi's commerce minister and former Punjab governor, won in New Delhi.

Five of the eight state assembly by-election results declared so far went to opposition candidates.

In Assam, most of the prominent Congress Party leaders lost or were heading for defeat. The only important party leader to prevail was Saikia, who retained the Nazim constituency and defeated (APF) Tanu Konwar.

APF's general secretary, Bhriku K. Phukan, was elected from the district of Jhalukbari, outside Dispur. Another important party leader, Anil Barua, won in Dispur, Assam's capital.

Deng: China must use Capitalism to modernise

PEKING (R) — China has to use Capitalist methods to help boost production but there will be no wavering from basic communist doctrine, top leader Deng Xiaoping was quoted Wednesday as saying.

The People's Daily overseas edition quoted Mr. Deng as saying that, for years after the Communists came to power in 1949, China's peasants, who form 80 per cent of the population, lacked food and were poorly dressed.

He said that a radical liberalisation of rural policies in the past five years, which resulted in record harvests and growing prosperity, had transformed the picture.

"Our reforms in the countryside have invigorated the economy," he said.

But he said that similar reforms in the cities, announced last year, were much more complicated, posed many more problems and would need five years to implement.

Mr. Deng, presiding over a reduction of Soviet-style central planning in favour of encouraging people to compete for business

and profits, acknowledged he was meeting resistance.

"People have expressed concern about these reforms. We will allow differences of opinion to exist and let experience resolve their doubts," he said.

A Western diplomat said Mr. Deng's remarks displayed a degree of candour which, though typical of him, was highly unusual among Chinese leaders.

Mr. Deng said there would be no wavering from the Socialist principle of the primacy of public ownership and wide distribution of wealth, to avoid great disparity in income.

Urban reforms have involved reducing controls on food prices, which have risen sharply as a result.

One of China's top economists, Xue Muqiao, wrote in the People's Daily that some city people were angry about the price rises in food and still yearned for the stable prices of the 1960s.

"Some comrades think stable prices and limited supply in that era showed the superiority of Socialism," he said. "This is wrong."

Castellano was killed 'for losing control of family'

NEW YORK (R) — Paul Castellano, "godfather" of the American mafia, was slain because he was losing control of the most powerful crime family in the United States, law enforcement officials say.

"He was just not functioning," John Hogan, head of the FBI's New York office, said Tuesday.

"He was just not strong enough to handle the day-to-day business of his group."

Castellano, 73, and his right-hand man, Thomas Bilotti, 47, were cut down in a hail of bullets on Monday night as they got out of the mafia chief's limousine in midtown Manhattan.

The killers were three men in trench coats who pulled out semi-automatic pistols and pumped six shots into each man, killing both instantly.

For the last two months, Castellano, head of the Gambino crime family, had been on trial on charges of operating an international car-theft ring.

He had also been indicted in two related racketeering cases in which authorities called a major strike against organised crime.

Hogan told Reuters that Castellano had become "a liability due to his legal problems and his being in court every day."

James Harmon, head of President Reagan's Organized Crime Commission, said Castellano and Bilotti had also angered mob chiefs by talking too much on federal wiretaps.

"They provided much information to law enforcement when their conversations were bugged by the FBI," he said.

One of those wiretaps was in Castellano's own mansion — built to resemble the White House — on Staten Island.

Crime experts believe the stage was set for Castellano's killing when Aniello Dellacroce, the underboss of the Gambino family, died of cancer on Dec. 2. Dellacroce and Castellano had their own factions within the crime family, but the underboss managed to keep everyone in line.

When Dellacroce died, his protégé, John Gotti, wanted to become the second-in-command. But Castellano wanted Bilotti to have the post, thus creating a conflict, officials said.

Crash probe finds thrust reverser improperly engaged

WASHINGTON (R) — The improper engagement of a device that reverses an engine's thrust to slow it down may have caused last week's plane crash in Gander, Newfoundland, U.S. aviation industry sources have said.

The device, called a thrust reverser, is mounted on the engine and slows down the plane by directing engine thrust toward the front of the craft. It is usually turned on when a plane lands.

The sources said Canadian investigators at the crash site found that one of the chartered Arrow Air DC-8's four thrust reversers was in the engaged position although the plane had just taken off.

"The key question is, when did that occur," said one industry source close to the investigation. "Did it occur before takeoff, in flight, or after impact? If it occurred in flight, it could have caused the plane to lose speed and veer to the right."

Canadian Aviation Safety Board investigators said that the plane's flight recorder showed that the jet had taken off normally but then lost speed and veered to the right just before crashing. This would be consistent with the engagement of a thrust reverser.

All 256 people aboard the jet — 248 U.S. soldiers returning from a peacekeeping mission in the Middle East and eight crew — were killed.

Canadian Aviation Safety Board spokeswoman Christine Beaulieu said Tuesday that the thrust reverser was just "one of many, many areas of concern we are looking into."

"All these areas will be carefully looked into," Beaulieu said. "It is premature at this time to say whether the thrust reverser played a role in the crash or not."

Australians lose drugs death appeal in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's supreme court threw out appeals Wednesday by two Australians facing the gallows for drug smuggling but their government said it would seek clemency.

Perth welder Kevin Barlow and Sydney building contractor Brian Chambers, both 28, stood pale and so bere in the dock as the country's highest judge dismissed their appeals and upheld the convictions, which carry a mandatory death penalty.

Their last recourse is to the state pardons board of Western Penang, where they were arrested in November 1983 with 180 grammes of heroin. If that fails, they will be the first Westerners to hang in Malaysia for trafficking.

Lord President Tun Salleh Abbas said the amount of heroin they had when trying to leave for Kuala Lumpur was well above the 15 grammes limit needed for conviction.

Salleh and supreme court judges Tan Sri Eusoffe Abdulokader and Datuk George Seah were unanimous in their verdict, delivered to a packed court in central Kuala Lumpur.

Barlow later broke down and cried, saying guilt had been assumed from the start.

The judges brushed aside arguments by the men's lawyers that the judge who convicted them on July 26 erred in drawing damning inferences from circumstantial evidence about the bag in which the drugs were found.

Other argument turned on the credibility of the arresting officer's testimony and on whether Barlow and Chambers had acted with "common purpose" in trafficking in the drugs.

At their trial Barlow and Chambers each blamed the other but the trial and appeal judges ruled they had planned and acted in concert.

In Sydney, Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said Australia would ask for the sentences to be commuted on humanitarian grounds.

An Australian government statement said there was no justification for taking away life as a punishment by matter how serious an offence.

Jeath, no matter how serious the offence.

Malaysia has hanged 32 drug convicts since 1975 including South East Asian nationals and seventeen foreigners are among 59 people now on death row. Four Australians are in pre-trial detention or serving long jail terms for drugs offences.

Malaysia, long been a transit point for drugs from the Golden Triangle straddling Laos, Burma and Thailand, has vowed to mete out equal punishment to local and foreign drug offenders. It has more than 100,000 registered drug addicts.

Barlow and Chambers' lawyers Karpal Singh and Rasiah Rajasingam were assisted by Australian lawyers Frank Galbally and Ron Cannon. Galbally left for Australia Tuesday night after Karpal failed in an attempt to have him charged with contempt.

Galbally had to apologise to the court after Karpal told the judges he had said "Barnie" on your bloody system" during an argument over bringing fresh grounds of appeal.

Cannon said in a statement he was disappointed that the appeal had been rejected but had no complaint about the appeal process.

"Nor can I complain that travellers to Malaysia are not warned about the death penalty for drug trafficking. I hope this case is a warning to other Australians. We cannot expect leniency in the future," he said.

Mr. Hayden said Australia was seeking grounds for commutation on humanitarian grounds now that all legal avenues had been exhausted.

"As a personal note, I have always been and remain firmly opposed to capital punishment and accordingly I will be pressing the presentation of this appeal for clemency with a great sense of urgency," Mr. Hayden told reporters.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Emswiler

By Olive Dunn

ACROSS

1 Summer place for Junior

5 Healing indication

9 Eddie Island

13 Secrete

15 Lullaby

19 Ineffable

20 Shipper's

21 Rich cake

22 Allergy

23 Deceit

24 Strong river

25 Petal perfume

26 Attitude

28 Right from the horse's mouth

31 Talk back

32 Took steps

33 Opening

34 Summer

35 Frodo

36 Hunting dog

37 Suffer

38 Loop

39 Major or minor

40 Colours

41 Ancient

42 Papyrus

43 Spicy request

44 Petal

45 Profit

46 Hand

47 Sooty

48 Arab prince

49 Oversteps

50 Make an exception

51 Preval over

52 One

53 Suffer

54 Malady

55 Come on sign?

56 Suffer

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